

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018-19

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **Geospatial Information Technology**

- The Center became a Regional Support Office for the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Disaster and Emergency Response. We are the only such resource in North America and our partners include the European Space Agency, the Indian Institute for Remote Sensing, and the Japanese Space Agency.
- Aaron Sassenrath-Cole, a BAS-GAI major, served as an intern for Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi.
- The Center won a direct contract to produce maps for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency as part of a larger effort to train NGA's future workforce and create new job opportunities for graduates.

### **Social Sciences and History**

- The Division of Social Sciences and History hosted Delta State's first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Katarzyna Mackowska, of Pope John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Poland. Dr. Mackowska taught two courses in political science during the spring 2019 semester and delivered a public lecture on the European Union.
- Dr. Leslie Stewart led a group of undergraduate students and Dr. Mackowska to the Mississippi Political Science Association meeting this spring, at which both faculty and students presented papers.
- Dr. Carrie Freshour and Professor Arlene Sanders, along with current DSU students, have begun an oral history project with the DSU students who organized and took part in the 1969 Black Student Organization sit-in protests. This April, they held a lunch-and-learn program that honored the BSO (the forerunner to the Black Student Union) and the former students. The students and faculty involved in this project also presented their work this May at the Community Development Education Symposium in Detroit.
- Dr. Joseph Lane will be presenting a paper at the International Mining Water Association's conference in Perm, Russia, this July.
- Dr. Andrew Wegmann presented a series of lectures in France in November 2018 and will be delivering a paper this month at the World History Association's meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Dr. Chuck Westmoreland was named president of the Mississippi Historical Society. In March 2020, Delta State will host the Society's annual meeting.

### **Delta Music Institute**

- The DMI All-Stars (student band) performed for Mississippi Night at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi during GRAMMY® week.
- DMI audio engineering students provided production support for the Mighty Mississippi Music Festival, Crosstie Arts & Jazz Festival, and Juke Joint Festival.
- DMI entertainment industry interns were employed last summer in Nashville, Birmingham, Memphis, and Jackson.
- DMI hosted "Sound Advice," a virtual industry conference featuring more than a dozen professionals who engaged with students via online platforms.

- DMI partnered with the Follow Your Heart arts program in Grenada to provide instruction to beginning guitar and songwriting students. Follow Your Hearts was created by recording artist and Grenada native Charlie Worsham.
- DMI students attended the CD Baby DIY Conference in Nashville, TN.
- DMI faculty member Travis Calvin and four students attended the Black Collegiate Male Retreat at the University of Texas in Austin, sponsored by the Casey Family Foundation.
- The DMI Mobile Lab's Healing With A Groove program created a featured song for the 2019 Winning the Race conference.
- DMI Director Emeritus Tricia Walker completed her eighth studio album, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter Eye*, which was recorded in the DMI Fighting Okra Studios.
- DMI entertainment industry major Schaefer Llana was awarded the prestigious "first diploma" (highest GPA) during the 2019 Spring commencement ceremonies.

### Art Department

- Master of Fine Arts degree in integrated visual arts was approved by IHL.
- Odelier-Morgan Building renovated to become the Digital Media Art Center.
- New concentrations in animation and printmaking.
- New faculty hires:
  - Mansoor Shams – animation
  - Ted Fisher – video
- Diane McCall, our administrative assistant, was selected to become part of the inaugural LEADS program (Link, Empower, And Develop Staff).
- Hosted the Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition in the fall:
  - Competition against all 8 public schools in the state.
  - Madison Hood won logo design competition; Ade'ola Ayedun won the illustration competition.
- Michaela Merryday and Michael Stanley took 12 students to Washington, D.C. in December to tour the capital and visit the art museums.
- Michaela Merryday organized a 2-week study abroad trip to Vienna, Austria, and took 7 students and 4 community members.
- The department installed new digital signage in HNA.
- Chet Oguz is the new Faculty Senate president for 2019-20.
- Kayla Selby taught graphic design at Shangqiu Normal University in Shangqiu, China, in December 2018.
- John Stiles and Chet Oguz taught at Shangqiu Normal University in Shangqiu, China, in summer 2018.
- Robyn Wall's artwork was accepted into 15 exhibitions last year and was also invited to the 10<sup>th</sup> International Printmaking Biennial at the Museu de Douro, Alijo, Portugal. She also organized an exhibition for the Southern Graphics Council International Conference titled *Southern Hospitality*, which was on view at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX.
- Nathan Pietrykowski was also invited to exhibit work in the 10<sup>th</sup> International Printmaking Biennial at the Museu de Douro, Alijo, Portugal.
- Michael Stanley and Ky Johnston held a two-person exhibit at Gulfport Community College in Gulfport, MS.
- The Art Department received a \$200,000 donation in equipment from Gary Jennings and the Madison Center to be used for our digital media art degree.
- Michael Stanley is installing his sculpture, *The Delta Queen*, in the lobby of the new Cotton House Hotel in downtown Cleveland.

## Languages and Literature

- The Division of Languages & Literature has launched a brand-new, completely-online M.Ed. in secondary English teaching program, the only kind in the region. The next cohort will enroll in summer 2020.
- Dr. Melanie Anderson’s book (with Dr. Lisa Kröger), *Monster, She Wrote: The Women Who Pioneered Horror and Speculative Fiction*, will be released by Penguin Random House in September. This is the first book by a current Delta State faculty member published by Penguin Random House.
- Dr. Gabriel Scala and a group of English education students were accepted for the NCTE Elate Conference in Arkansas to present a roundtable entitled, “We’re Starting with Mississippi: Teacher Candidates Discuss Their Plans to Change the World.”
- Dr. Lauren Coker-Durso, assistant professor of English, was recognized by the Modern Language Association for a “substantial contribution” to the *MLA International Bibliography* database.
- Kole Oakes, a creative writing senior, published their first chapbook, *It Only Takes Three or Four Seconds to Become Helpless in Flowing Grain*. The press, Babylon Press is located in North Carolina. Kole is the second DSU student in the last two years to have books accepted for publication. There will be a book-release party on campus in November.
- Mike Smith, associate professor of English, is a featured reader this October at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Eudora Welty Symposium, held on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women. Also, his *The Zombie Poetry Project* is the subject of a podcast series, *Staying Alive: Poetry, Crisis and the Undead*—a series produced by the University of Oxford, UK, featuring 7 poets from around the world.
- Maia Elgin Wegmann, assistant professor of English, will have two poems, “Abduction of Consent” and “and all your rules could not protect me,” published in Rhythm & Bones Lit’s forthcoming anthology *YANYR*.
- Dr. Clint Tibbs, associate professor of philosophy, has been invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal *Teaching Philosophy*. The journal is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to the practical and theoretical discussion of teaching and learning philosophy.
- Dr. Melanie R. Anderson, assistant professor of English, presented a paper, “An Exploration of the Fantastic Horror of Margaret St. Clair” at the Oct. 11-13 meeting of the South Central MLA in San Antonio.
- Prof. Maia Elgin Wegmann, assistant professor of English, composed a poem, “carcinoma of the cervix,” which will be published in *Delta Poetry Review* in late February.
- Dr. Lauren Coker-Durso, assistant professor of English, wrote an article, “Masquerading Early Modern Disability: Sexuality, Violence, and the Body (Politic) in *Richard III*,” which was published in *Screen Bodies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Experience, Perception, and Display*
- Ten students have won awards in the *Delta Arts Literary Journal* annual contest:
  - Poetry:
  - Chris Kalil – first place
  - Rachel Red – second place
  - Kathryn Leard – honorable mention
  - Liz Howell – honorable mention

- Fiction:
- Kjirsten Whitsell – first place
- Rebecca Dickson – second place
- Kjirsten Whitsell – honorable mention (for a second entry)
  
- Formal Essay:
- Jonathan Boles – first place
- Liz Howell – second place
- Liz Howell – honorable mention (for a second entry)
  
- Informal Essay:
- Riley Hardin – first place
- William Hunter Thompson – second place
- Damon Moore – honorable mention
  
- One Act Play:
- Liz Howell – first place
  
- 22 students graduated with the BSW in May 2018.
- 22 students graduated with the BSW in May 2019.
- The department was represented in professional presentations at NACSW, CSWE, MS NASW, BPD, and the AL/MS Social Work Education Conference.
- The Mock Interview Simulation was approved by the IRB as a 4<sup>th</sup> departmental research project.
- NASW President Dr. Kathryn Wehrmann was the keynote speaker at the annual Margaret Tullos Social Work Field Education Symposium in February.
- Was featured in Dr. Kathryn Wehrmann’s Editorial “Elevating Social Work in Mississippi” in the June-July 2019 issue of *NASW Social Work Advocates*.
- Participated in Child Advocacy Centers of MS Child Abuse Disclosure Simulation in April at the MS State Hospital.
- 4 students won first-place research poster awards at the AL/MS Social Work Education Conference and the DSU Winning the Race Conference with Jana Donahoe and Victoria Peay as their faculty sponsors.
- Moved the Empathetic Action Simulative Education (EASE Project) into the space formerly occupied by the Madison Center.
- Began working toward the development of a certificate program in Child Advocacy Studies.
- Procured a \$5,000 donation to develop with the help of Dr. Vernell Bennett a Food Pantry for DSU students, faculty and staff.

### **Social Work**

- Jana Donahoe, LCSW, Ph.D.:
  - Was promoted to associate professor of social work and was hired as chair of the department.
  - Presented at Cafe Scientifique, NACSW, the MS NASW Conference, and the Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference.
  - Was asked to coordinate the development of a new interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Studies Program Certificate Program at DSU.
  - Secured funding from Extra Table to develop a Food Pantry at DSU with Dr. Vernell Bennett.

- Developed the Interprofessional Center for Empathetic Action Simulative Education (EASE) Center and project housed in the location of the former Madison Center and applied for a half-million dollar grant for its implementation through the Bolivar Medical Foundation.
  - Attended the One Loud Voice Conference in preparation to implement the CAST certificate.
  - Attended Forecast Simulation Training for the CAST program.
  - Raised \$5,000 for the DSU Spring for Success microgrant projects to purchase a new Virtual Dementia Tour® simulation and became a VDT ®Certified Trainer.
  - Secured funding through the DSU QEP to purchase the Poverty Simulation® and became a Certified Poverty Simulation® Trainer.
  - Served as faculty sponsor of the DSU chapter of NACSW.
  - Served as faculty sponsor of student research on the DSU Poverty Simulation Project—the students won first place poster awards at the AL/MS Social Work Education Conference and the DSU Winning the Race Conference.
- Taylor Skelton, LMSW:
    - Was hired as director of BSW field education and instructor of social work in January 2018.
    - Was awarded the Connected Educator of the Year award along with co-winner, Shalando Jones (Both first-year faculty).
    - Was appointed as the faculty sponsor of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and implemented their first partnership toy drive for St. Jude Children's Hospital.
    - Coordinated and implemented field instructor training.
    - Supervised 22 students in field placements in both 2018 and 2019.
    - Presented at the MS NASW Conference, AL/MS Social Work Education Conference, and the Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference.
    - Took students to attend the AL/MS Social Work Education Conference.
    - Completed ACUE certification and several other faculty development programs.
    - Became the departmental Faculty Senate representative.
    - Completed doctoral education courses toward a Ph.D. in social work at Walden University.
    - Coordinated the annual Margaret Tullos Social Work Field Education Symposium in February.
    - Coordinated the Career Fair for social work students in April.
    - Served on various departmental committees and search committees.
- Victoria Peay, LCSW:
    - Was hired as an instructor of social work in August 2018.
    - Was awarded the R.L. Shurden Award by the North Sunflower Academy Board of Directors.
    - Was appointed the faculty sponsor of the Social Work Club.
    - Presented at the MS NASW conference and the DSU Home for the Holidays min-conference.
    - Attended the One Loud Voice Conference in preparation to implement the CAST certificate.
    - Served on various departmental committees and search committees.
    - Took students to the MS NASW Conference.
    - Completed various faculty development programs.
    - Served as a faculty co-sponsor of the student research posters on the DU Poverty Simulation Project—the students won first place poster awards at the AL/MS Social Work Education Conference and the DSU Winning the Race Conference.
    - Taught overloads.
    - Assisted the department with implementing various simulations, research projects, and conferences.

## Music Department

- 22 student recital and capstone presentations on campus.
- 10 faculty recitals on campus.
- 20 DSU ensemble and special event concerts on campus.
- More than 600 pre-college students attending on-campus events: Honor Band, Honor Choir, Art of the Piano, Low brass day, High School Choral Festival, and band invitational.
- DSU Chorale Tour of Mississippi and Louisiana.
- Marching Band exhibition performance at Copiah Academy marching band festival.
- Wind Ensemble Tour in Mississippi.
- Piano and voice area exchange with Sungkyul University (SKU), Anyang, South Korea:
  - January 2019 at DSU: 2 faculty and 5 students from SKU participated alongside DSU students and faculty to present 4 masterclasses and 4 concerts.
  - May 2019 at SKU: 9 DSU students and 4 faculty traveled to South Korea to present 9 student/faculty concerts and lecture-recitals, 4 voice and piano masterclasses, and 2 high school recruiting visits.

## Faculty Accomplishments:

- Dr. Laurissa Backlin, Dr. Jamie Dahman, Dr. Karen Fosheim, Dr. Jung-Won Shin: gave performances and masterclasses at the Sungkyul University Piano and Voice Festival in Anyang South Korea.
- Dr. Julia Thorn: presentation for Louisiana Fall Vocal Conference, New Orleans, LA-  
*Preparation + Performance = \$\$*
- Dr. Julia Thorn: guest clinician at Center Hill High School Workshop, Olive Branch, MS, and Airline High School Choral Workshop, Bossier City, LA.
- Dr. Julia Thorn: guest conductor at Southeast Massachusetts District Choral Festival, Boston, MA, and Regional Honor Choir, Howard County, MD.
- Dr. Julia Thorn: adjudicator for Southern-American Choral Directors Conference Interest Sessions and MS Central Choral Festival State Assessment, Pearl, MS.
- Dr. Laurissa Backlin: presented information from National NATS conference as Emerging Leader for the Southern Region at Regional NATS (selected as one of 8 national emerging leaders).
- Dr. Laurissa Backlin: sang as professional chorister (auditioned) with Red Shift choir in Baton Rouge (concert was part of LSU's Artist Series).
- Dr. Laurissa Backlin: recital at Mississippi University for Women with Susan Hurley (soprano)
- Dr. Jamie Dahman: presented lecture-recital on Bulgarian art song at Southern Regional NATS Conference.
- Dr. Jamie Dahman: DSU Humanities Teacher of the Year for his work on the Bulgarian art song.
- Dr. Jamie Dahman: published *An Anthology of Bulgarian Art Song*.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong: president of the Mississippi Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong: board member for the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong: new music reviewer for *Percussive Arts Journal*.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong: attended Percussive Arts Society International Conference.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong: attended National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy.
- Dr. Douglas Mark: presented guest artist recital and master class at East Central Community College.
- Dr. Douglas Mark: performed the world premiere of a commissioned work for trombone, violin and piano (*Refrains for Three*, Robert G. Patterson) at the Big 12 Trombone Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

- Dr. Douglas Mark: invited to serve as conference faculty competition judge at the Big 12 Trombone Conference.
- Dr. Douglas Mark: selected to serve as secretary-treasurer, College Music Society-Southern Division.
- Dr. Shelley Collins: taught a master class at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA.
- Dr. Shelley Collins: co-chaired the 5<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on the Blues and wrote a grant proposal resulting in \$25,000 for the 2018 and 2019 conferences.
- Dr. Shelley Collins: performed and conducted at the Mid-South Flute Festival in Memphis, TN.
- Dr. Shelley Collins: served as panelist and moderator for “Career Session: Following the Many Paths of a Musician's Life” at the National Flute Convention.
- Dr. Kumiko Shimizu: co-presenting a plenary session, *IDEA- Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access... The Start of a Discussion*, at the National Opera Association Conference (by invitation), Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Dr. Kumiko Shimizu: American Prize—selected as finalist in the Instrumental Performance, Professional Division.
- Dr. Kumiko Shimizu: collaborative pianist for the North American Saxophone Alliance Region 6 Conference (by invitation), University of Mississippi.
- Dr. Kumiko Shimizu: performance at the Sacred Music Concert with Opera Viva!, Verona, Italy, July 2018.
- Dr. Kumiko Shimizu: collaborative pianist at the William Bennett Flute Academy (by invitation), Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, June 2018.
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: Beethoven Sonata Lecture Recital: Middle Portraits, Jane Allen Recital Hall, Steinway Piano Gallery, St. Louis, MO.
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: solo and concerto performances, Beethoven Boot Camp, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland.
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: solo performance on *Ivory and Ebony* (2009) by Joan Tower, College Music Society (CMS) Southern Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: vice president for Pre-College Evaluations, Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA).
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: adjudicator for Shelby County School District Piano Festival, Overton High School, Memphis, TN, and Jones County Music Teachers Association Piano Solo & Sonata Competitions, Laurel, MS.
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin: masterclasses at East Central Community College, Decatur, MS, and Overton High School for Creative and Performing Arts, Memphis, TN.
- Dr. Bret Pimentel: North American Saxophone Alliance conference: presented lecture on woodwind doubling, was featured soloist in evening jazz concert, and adjudicated collegiate solo competition.
- Dr. Bret Pimentel: had a season contract to perform with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.
- Dr. Bret Pimentel: had two columns published in *The Clarinet* (journal of the International Clarinet Association).
- Dr. Karen Fosheim: served a two-year term as president of the College Music Society Southern Chapter (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Puerto Rico).
- Dr. Karen Fosheim: served as program chair for the College Music Society Southern Chapter Conference in Orlando.
- Dr. Karen Fosheim: was appointed to the Diversity Committee for the College Music National Association.
- Dr. Karen Fosheim: was appointed to the nominating committee for the College Music Society national board.

- Dr. Karen Fosheim: adjudicator for AMRO Piano Festival, Memphis, TN.

#### Student Accomplishments:

- Ethan Baker, Semi Dong, Jordan Galtelli, Yeim Kim, Uichan Li, Amanda Lutz, Austin Means, Kaitlin Murphy, Sung-Eun Ryu: gave performances and participated in masterclasses at the Sungkyul University Piano and Voice Festival in Anyang South Korea.
- Taylor Burks: awarded a graduate assistantship at University of Nebraska Omaha for fall 2019.
- Ben Neal: awarded graduate Assistantship at New Mexico State University for fall 2019.
- Lendarius Barney: selected as counselor/mentor at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, summer 2019.
- Amanda Lutz: selected for an internship with the National Flute Association, August 2018.
- Jayla Isom and Rachel Houska: National Opera Association Collegiate Scenes Competition (Musical Theater Division)—selected as finalist (under the direction of Dr. Kumiko Shimizu).
- Catheryne Booth: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Young Artist Brass Mississippi Music Teachers National Association (MS MTNA).
- Young-Hye Min: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Young Artist Piano, MS MTNA.
- Sung-Eun Ryu: Alternate, Young Artist Piano, MS MTNA.
- DSU Saxophone Quartet (Ethan Baker, Will Pearce, Josh Ray, Dakota Young): honorable mention, Woodwind Chamber Competition, MS MTNA.
- Yeim Kim: 1st place, piano freshman/sophomore piano solo, Mississippi Music Teachers Association Collegiate Competition.
- JaMareus Freeman: 1<sup>st</sup> place, sophomore men’s division, MS National Association of Teachers of Singing Competitions (NATS).
- Austin Means: 3<sup>rd</sup> place, junior men’s division, MS NATS.
- Thomas (Clay) Tutor, 4<sup>th</sup> place, freshmen men’s division, MS NATS.
- Dakota Young: was selected to give a masterclass performance at the North American Saxophone Alliance Region 6 Conference.
- Amber Browning, Elijah Davison, Jordan Galtelli, Tristen Gooden, Michael Griffin, Rachel Houska, Austin Means: selected to participate in the MS All-State Collegiate Honor Choir.
- Young-Hye Min: scholarship recipient and participant, Orford Music Academy, Canada.

#### Division of Mathematics and Sciences

- The Division of Mathematics and Sciences completed its first year as a newly reorganized unit.
- The unit secured approximately \$475,000 in external funding in AY2018-19:
  - NSF LS-MAMP grant \$250,000
  - Hearin grant – PI’s Johanson & Kagumba \$ 80,000
  - NIH MS-INBRE – PI Wang \$ 50,000
  - NASA grant – PI Smithhart \$ 30,000
  - MS Delta Natural Heritage Area grant – PI Riding \$ 24,500
  - Bolivar Medical Foundation (pre-health prep lab) \$ 20,000
  - AT&T STEM camp – PI Blackwell \$ 12,000
  - Outdoors camp – PI Reza \$ 7,000
- Our graduates were accepted into professional health programs including medical, dental, physical therapy, pharmacy, veterinary, pharmacy programs as well as masters and doctoral programs spanning disciplines from ecology to neuroscience.
- Faculty and students presented at state and national meetings, including the national American Chemical Society meeting, the national Botanical Society of America meeting, Mississippi Academy of Sciences and the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the Mathematics Association.



- Four publications were authored by Delta State science faculty and students and were published by Perm State University in their *Fundamental and Applied Research in Biology and Ecology Journal*.
- In terms of service, the 2018-19 Faculty Senate president, Honors Program chair, chair of the General Education committee, and chair of the University Research Committee were all members of the Division.
- Student admittance to graduate & professional health programs:  
 Graduates of the Division of Mathematics and Sciences were admitted to highly competitive professional programs including medical, dental, physical therapy, pharmacy, veterinary and nursing programs in 2018-19. We also had students accepted into masters and doctoral programs in biomedical sciences, bioengineering, ecology and neuroscience:
  - James Allen, B.S. biology, was accepted to the graduate program in biology at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He will be working with Dr. Robin Verble in the Verble Fire Ecology Lab at the Ozark Research Field Station. James has been awarded a graduate teaching assistantship that includes a tuition remission and a great stipend.
  - Emilee Ann Boldon, B.S. biology pre-medical and Mississippi Rural Physician Scholarship Program recipient, has been accepted to UMMC School of Medicine for fall 2019.
  - Joelle Dick, B.S. chemistry, has been accepted to the M.S. Bioengineering program at Mississippi State University.
  - Mason Francis, B.S. biology pre-dental, has been admitted to the M.S. Biomedical Sciences program at UMMC.
  - Nick Goza, B.S. biology with a pre-dental concentration December 2015, was accepted to dental school at the University of Detroit Mercy.
  - Ashley Griffin, B.S. biology, has been accepted to the Ph.D. in neuroscience program at UMMC and Marquette University. She has decided to attend UMMC to begin her doctoral degree in fall 2019.
  - Rachel Jackson, B.S. biology with a pre-medical concentration May 2018, was accepted to the physician assistant program at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN.
  - Zachary Kinler, B.S. chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry, May 2018, was accepted to UMMC School of Medicine.
  - Payton Lane, ACS chemistry major, was accepted to UMMC School of Dentistry for fall 2019.
  - Sarah Mumme, B.S. biology with a pre-physical therapy concentration was accepted to the University of Central Arkansas's physical therapy program.
  - Kamryn Otts, B.S. Biology pre-pharmacy, was accepted to UMMC Pharmacy School for Fall 2019.
  - Logan Tucker, B.S. Biology pre-veterinary, has been accepted to Mississippi State's Veterinary School beginning fall 2019.
  - Kianna Webb, B.S. biology, was accepted to UMMC accelerated B.S. nursing program.
  - Rebecca Napier-Jameson, M.S. natural sciences and B.S. biology, has started her Ph.D. in molecular biology at Southern Methodist University.
  - Katie Penton, M.S. natural sciences and B.S. chemistry, has started her Ph.D. in chemistry at Vanderbilt University.
- Student honors & awards:
  - Aaron Sassenrath-Cole, environmental science major with a wildlife concentration and BAS-GAI major, was selected for the Congressional Fellowship in Mississippi Sen. Wicker's office in spring 2019.

- Kyle Weesner, biology major, received the NCAA Elite 90 Award for Division II. He is the second biology major (Micah Davis) to receive this national recognition for academic achievement.
- Darius S. Kennedy, M.S. natural sciences May 2018, B.S. biology May 2016, has received the Donald O. Schreiweis Scholarship from Alpha Epsilon Delta, health pre-professional honor society. This award is from the AED national office and is highly competitive. Darius is currently a first year medical student at UMMC School of Medicine.
- Internships & full-time hires:  
Students in Mathematics & Sciences were selected for summer internships at the USDA ARS in Stoneville, Mitchell Field Services, Ducks Unlimited and others.
  - Christin Manor, B.S. biology and M.S. natural sciences student, has secured an internship with the USDA ARS in Dr. Brian Scheffler's genomics unit.
  - James Allen (B.S. biology) and Jordan Burchfield worked as summer interns with Dr. Kat Parys in Stoneville working on bee pollination research.
  - Emily Bodin, B.S. environmental sciences, has been hired as an oceanographer by the U.S. Navy.
  - Carrie Phillips, MAS-GIT program, has been hired by Fisher and Arnold as a GIS Specialist on their electrical engineering team.
  - Amanda Bishop, MAS-GIT program, has been hired by the USDA-ARS in Stoneville, MS, and will be working in Dr. Kat Parys' lab on bee pollination research.
  - Clint Cooper, BAS-GAI major, has secured an internship with NASA.
  - Warren Rybczinski, BAS-GAI major, has landed an internship with NGA for summer 2019.
  - Austin Parker, BAS-GAI major, has been promoted to an E-6 and placed on active duty to manage an intelligence group for U.S. Marine Corps.
  - Carrie Phillips (MAS-GIT December 2018 graduate) was recently hired by Fisher and Arnold in Memphis as a geospatial technologist/information system technologist.
  - Luke Potash (MAS-GIT December 2018 graduate) has made it through the first round of applications and passed the phase-1 test to work as an FBI intelligence analyst.
  - Tigwende Jonathan Soubeiga (MAS-GIT December 2018 graduate) has started a GIT consulting firm in his home country of Burkina Faso, Africa, to provide organizations with consultation on geospatial solutions and data services. [www.wen-data.com](http://www.wen-data.com)
  - Melissa Freeman, MAS-GIT graduate student, was selected to participate in emergency management courses through the State of Georgia. She has taken several classes and is only a few classes away from becoming a certified emergency manager in the state of Georgia.
- Student organizations:  
Delta State's American Chemical Society (ACS) student chapter received an Outstanding Award for its activities. Of the roughly 400 chapter reports received by ACS, 69 were deemed outstanding, 92 commendable and 145 honorable mention. Virginia Webb accepted the award on behalf of the ACS group in Florida.
- Travel:  
Faculty and students in Math & Sciences presented at regional, state, and national conferences in 2018-19. Among the conferences attended:
  - National American Chemical Society meeting – Orlando, FL (Bentley)
  - National Botanical Society of America meeting – Rochester, MN (Riding)
  - Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators – Orlando, FL (Bondurant)

- Geological Society of America – Indianapolis, IN (Riding)
- Louisiana/Mississippi section of Mathematics Association (Hebert, Putnam, Bondurant)
- Mississippi Academy of Sciences – Hattiesburg, MS (Blackwell, Bentley, Jurgenson, Reza, Riding, Smithhart, Wang)
- Mississippi Chapter of the Wildlife Society – Biloxi, MS (Reza and Blackwell)
- Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting – Memphis, TN (Blackwell)
- Mississippi Association for Research in Science Teaching (Kagumba)
- Cartography Association Commission on Education (Zhang)
- Service to Delta State:
  - Dr. Severine Groh, associate professor of biology, served as the 2018-19 Faculty Senate president.
  - Dr. David Hebert, associate professor of mathematics, served as the chair of the 2018-19 University General Education Committee.
  - Dr. Catherine Putnam, assistant professor of mathematics, served as the 2018-19 University Research Committee chair.
  - Dr. James Gerald, assistant professor of physics, served as the University Honors Program chair.
  - Dr. AHM Reza, associate professor of biology, is serving as the DSU University International Liaison coordinator.
  - Dr. Lee Virden, associate professor of mathematics, served as the Division of Mathematics and Sciences dual enrollment coordinator

## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND AVIATION**

- The College of Business and Aviation Online Integrated MBA program was named one of the best online MBA programs in the nation, according to OnlineMBAPage.com.
- College of Business and Aviation received in excess of \$720,000 in first time gifts and pledges.
- The College of Business and Aviation initiated installation of a state-of-the-art Financial Investing and Research Lab.
- The Department of Commercial Aviation successfully renewed Part 141 Certificate.
- FedEx\$500,000 scholarship announced and implemented at \$100,000 per year for the next five years to support flight operations students.
- College of Business and Aviation utilized grant funds from American Airlines to establish a flight training lab in Gibson-Gunn.
- Dr. Gwen Meador was honored with the 2018 KPMG Outstanding Dissertation Award presented by the Gender Issues and Worklife Balance Section of the American Accounting Association.
- Marshall Salley, senior accounting major, was honored at the MSCPA Tax Institute for his selection as the Hamp King Award scholarship winner. One scholarship winner from among all MSCPA scholarship recipients is selected from the State of Mississippi each fall based on outstanding academic and collegiate leadership.
- The Center for Community & Economic Development expanded its Local Government Leadership Institute (LGLI) training to municipal clerks with the addition of 5 more training sessions to the curriculum.
- The Center for Community & Economic Development LGLI completed its prep and roll out for four new community development projects with four Delta area communities. The projects involve hands on training, collaboration, and development with the J.C. Stennis Institute at MS State to improve City Hall or the community as identified by the applicants. Four communities were selected for participation in 2019.

- College of Business and Aviation Phi Beta Lambda Chapter members participated in the National Competition held in San Antonio, Texas. Peyton Chambers and Frances Varner are national champions as they won first place in financial analysis and decision-making. They also placed in the top 15 in marketing analysis and decision-making. Alexas Hayes received 4<sup>th</sup> place in business ethics and in the top 15 in human resources management. Zachary Bozeman received 5<sup>th</sup> place in contemporary sports issues and 7<sup>th</sup> place in insurance concepts. Erik Syc placed in the top 15 in global analysis and decision-making as well as human resources management. Synethia Matthews placed in the top 15 in job interview.

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES**

### Major Grant Awards:

- \$600,000 – Mississippi Department of Education (funding through Kellogg) to support the Delta Sunflower Project and provide a teacher residency program to support tuition for 36 candidates to obtain degrees 2019-2023.
- \$157,000 (18-19) and \$182,000 (19-20) in funding awarded by Tri State Educational Foundation to support candidates to pursue advanced education degrees in Northeast Mississippi.
- \$108,000 awarded for completion of Delta School Leadership Pipeline, funded by U.S. Department of Education, to prepare quality principals for area schools.

### Faculty/Program Awards and Recognition:

- Dr. Jonathan Westfall received the IHL Higher Education Appreciation Day–Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) Award.
- Dr. Corlis Snow received the S. E. Kossman Outstanding Faculty Award at Delta State University.
- Dr. Natasha Barnes was the recipient of DSU’s Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award.
- Dr. Ensley Howell received the Outstanding Dietetics Educator of the Year Award from the Mississippi Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Anna Myer, a dietetics program intern, received the outstanding Dietetics Student of the Year Award.
- Dr. Franco Zengaro was named Outstanding Faculty Member for the College of Education and Human Sciences.
- Anjanette Powers received the Joe Garrison Loyalty Award.
- Nine faculty members were recognized as Connected Educators by OIT.
- The Association for Childhood Education International accreditation report, written by Dr. Tim Watkins, earned National Recognition status.
- The Counselor Education Program was recognized by the Mississippi Counseling Association as the Outstanding Counselor Education Program in the state.

### Presentations and Publications:

- Faculty engaged either independently or collaboratively in 79 publications and presentations. Students were engaged in approximately 10 research poster presentations this past year.

### Service:

- Dr. Corlis Snow coordinates involvement in the Center for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform Center, with Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Merideth Van Namen, and Dr. Tim Watkins rounding out the DSU team. One of three universities in the state selected, the group works with CEEDAR and the Mississippi Department of Education to improve leadership and

special education practices in our state's schools. High leverage practices, culturally responsive teaching, and improved curricula are foci of the group.

- Dr. Merideth Van Namen, Dr. Tim Watkins, Anjanette Powers, and Dori Bullock served on the Mississippi Higher Education Literacy Council.
- Dr. Tim Watkins attended training at ETS on the Princeton campus to learn skills that will assist candidates in preparing for licensure examinations.
- Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Faculty, under the guidance of Dr. John Alvarez, provided free fitness assessments, classes, and individual exercise instruction for more than 100 DSU students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members.
- Dr. Todd Davis hosted OKRA Kids Camp for 300-plus participants and the Delta Down and Dirty event with 380-plus participants.
- Dr. Jacqueline Craven served on the Board of the Consortium for Research on Educational Assessment and Teaching Effectiveness.
- Dr. Leslie Griffin served as president of the Mississippi Association for Partners in Education.

#### Special Teaching Activity:

- Dr. Jacqueline Goldman participated in an Erasmus+ exchange, traveling to John Paul II Catholic university of Lublin (KUL) in Poland, where she lectured and interacted with groups of KUL's administration, faculty, staff, and students.

### **ROBERT E. SMITH SCHOOL OF NURSING**

- 97% overall on NCLEX-RN pass rates.
- 100% overall on FNP Certification pass rates.
- Ranked #3 as Best RN Program in MS by [Registerednursing.org](http://Registerednursing.org).
- Ranked in Top 100 as 2019 Best Online Programs by the *U.S. News and World Report*.
- Faculty members Dr. Donna Koestler and Debra Allen earned national certification as Nurse Educators by the National League for Nursing organization.
- Dr. Shelby Polk, chair of nursing, received grant funding from the Mississippi Nurses Foundation to implement and place "Blessings in a Box" (Food Pantry) throughout the communities of Bolivar County.
- Dr. Donna Hill, SON faculty member, with the assistance of other SON faculty members and colleagues, educated 694 Bolivar county school employees on the Darkness to Light child sexual abuse prevention program, *Stewards of Children*.
- Received a \$200,000 grant from Bolivar Medical Center Foundation to upgrade simulation equipment and classrooms and to assist in preparing pre-health professionals for national examinations.
- Received scholarship funds of \$36,734.67 for students in all nursing programs from the Mississippi State Board of Nursing-Office of Nursing Workforce.
- Establishment of a new scholarship, RN4Students Education Fund, by a former nursing student, Valencia Payne.

### **ROBERTS-LAFORGE LIBRARY**

- Despite funding challenges, Roberts-LaForge Library has averaged above an overall 90% satisfaction rating from students for the past four years.
- More than 1 million electronic database searches were performed last year by Delta State students, faculty, and staff.

- Over the past five years, more than 16,000 students have attended face to face instructional sessions offered by Library Services.

## **GRADUATE AND CONTINUING STUDIES**

### Graduate:

- More than half of our 30 graduate programs moved to a streamlined admission process, allowing applicants an easier, quicker, and ultimately, automatic, pathway to entry.
- The number of graduate applications increased from 283 in spring 2018 to 303 in spring 2019, an improvement of 7 percent.
- Graduate Studies increased its social media presence to great effect. In the last year, we had more than 184,000 engagements on Twitter. In one month alone, we earned more than 23,000 impressions, more than for the entire previous year. On Facebook, our most popular post received 610 comments and 2,000 shares, while reaching more than 226,000 individuals and generating over 48,595 engagements. We also launched two new social media accounts through Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Of our 218 December undergraduate graduates, 28 immediately enrolled in a graduate program at Delta State. This represents 12.8 percent of the class, a two percent increase over the previous year's undergrad to grad enrollment.
- Graduate Studies made more than 50 recruiting visits at various institutions across four states, including all but one of Mississippi state community colleges.
- We launched one new, entirely online degree with the M.Ed. in Secondary Education–English program. Delta State now offers 15 online degrees.

### Continuing Studies:

- Continuing Education hosted the Lower and Upper Regional Science and Engineering Fairs on the DSU campus during the spring 2019 semester. Students in 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades competed against their peers in 13 categories. 310 students competed in the 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades and 173 students competed in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. From these numbers, Region III/DSU gave out 200 awards, with 102 advancing to the State Science and Engineering Fair later in the year.
- Continuing Education received a STEM Pipeline grant from Monsanto for their work with the Regional Science Fair. This grant was to help the office go into the regional schools and step them through the processes of running a fair in their area. Each school that participated in the Regional Fair also received a stipend from the grant. With the help of the grant and the ability to go into the schools to help implement science fair, the Regional Fair saw an increase of 117 students and 8 additional schools from the previous year.
- Fusion Gymnastics hosted their first Rhythm and Blues Sanctioned Gymnastics Meet in February 2019. This one-day meet brought 4 gyms and a total of 139 gymnasts to compete in their skilled levels. Fusion profited \$5,000 for their Foundation account that is used to better their gym through equipment and supply needs.
- Continuing Education hosted the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy for the fourth year on campus. This event brought 11 Mississippi high schools with a total of 350 MS high school students to DSU to take part in a Leader Academy assembly to learn their leadership roles over the next year for this program. Before leaving campus, the students took part in their first service project for the year by packing 1,000 care boxes for military families and veterans. These boxes would later be shipped overseas and throughout the states.

Through all of the efforts listed above, Continuing Education brought more 950 K-12th grade students to the Cleveland and Delta State Campus for special events.

TFA Fellows:

During the 2018-19 academic year, the TFA Graduate Fellows Program had a number of successes:

- The TFA Graduate Fellows Program has successfully matriculated 100% of their first and second cohorts, totaling 20 graduate students.
- Of the 20 Fellows who have completed the two-year Fellowship as of May 2019, 12 have continued their social entrepreneurship project in Mississippi following their experience. These social entrepreneurship projects include nonprofit organizations, school initiatives, and community programs that enhance the quality of life for Mississippians.
- Since 2016, the TFA Graduate Fellows Program has enrolled 30 Fellows who have positively impacted 12 communities throughout the state of Mississippi with their social entrepreneurship projects.
- Through various grants and private donations, the TFA Graduate Fellows have raised an estimated \$205,000 for their social entrepreneurship projects.
- We were awarded funding from the Hearin Foundation to support the fourth cohort of Fellows, made up of 12 Teach For America alumni, who will begin the program in fall 2019.

QEP accomplishments for FY 2018-19:

- Sponsored or co-sponsored 50-plus cultural competency events for DSU faculty, staff, and students.
- Received Mississippi Humanities Council grant for “Eyes on Mississippi” event.