

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019-2020

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **Social Science & History**

- The Social Justice and Criminology program revised its undergraduate curriculum to accommodate veterans, with credit hours derived from their military service and training. This revision was in response to the IHL initiative to grant credit for equivalent military training. <http://www.mississippi.edu/newsarchive/newsstory.asp?ID=1535>
- Chuck Westmoreland served this past year as President of the Mississippi Historical Society. In early March, DSU hosted the society's annual meeting. This was the first time DSU hosted the MHS meeting in several decades. Scholars from around Mississippi and across the country took part in the program. Sessions were held in Jacob Conference Center and Jobe Hall Auditorium. <http://www.mississippihistory.org/2020-program>
- Faculty and students in the Division of Social Sciences & History have been instrumental in the award-winning 1969 Black Student Sit-In Oral History Project documentary. At the annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society, the project participants received the Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, which honors outstanding work in oral history. Mr. Hilliard is a DSU alumnus and former director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. <http://www.deltastate.edu/news-and-events/2020/02/delta-state-university-to-receive-2020-elbert-r-hilliard-oral-history-award-from-mississippi-historical-society-for-documentary-on-1969-campus-sit-in-about-race-relations/>
- Andrew Wegmann completed the editing of a book entitled *French Connections: Cultural Mobility in North America and the Atlantic World, 1600-1785*. He and Robert Englebert are the editors and the book will be published this November by LSU Press. This edited collection promises to offer new insights into the history of the Atlantic World. <https://lsupress.org/books/detail/french-connections/>

### **Languages & Literature**

- Melanie Anderson, Assistant Professor of English, co-authored the book *Monster, She Wrote: The Women who Pioneered Horror and Speculative Fiction (2019)*, which won the 2019 Bram Stoker Award and the 2020 Locus Award, both in the Nonfiction categories. Additionally, she wrote the Introduction for the upcoming second installment in the series: *The Women of Weird Tales (Fall 2020)*. <https://www.valancourtbooks.com/the-women-of-weird-tales.html>
- Clint Tibbs, Associate Professor of Philosophy, has been named to the editorial board of Teaching Philosophy, a peer-reviewed academic journal devoted to the practical and theoretical discussion of teaching and learning philosophy, that is philosophy education.
- The Division of Languages and Literature has revised its curriculum and degree maps of English majors, introducing a series of internship possibilities and over 40 new and revised courses to the catalogue.

- Creative Writing, under the Division of Languages & Literature, received a grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation to implement a partnership with The Rosedale Freedom Project, training undergraduate writers to lead creative writing workshops for middle and high school Freedom Fellows and produce an anthology of spoken word poetry. Professors Maia Elgin Wegmann and Don Allan Mitchell are the Delta State University faculty sponsors for this new partnership.

## Music

- The Delta State University Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Julia Thorn, were invited to premiere two pieces at the 2020 Music by Women Festival in Columbus, Mississippi. Student soloists included: Kaitlyn Pignataro, Amber Browning, JaMaureus Freeman, Elijah Davison, and pianist Andrew Wasylina.
- The 2020 Delta State High School Honor Choir Festival, held in February, was comprised of 200 auditioned students from 13 schools across Mississippi.
- The Delta State Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Julia Thorn, performed for the DeSoto County District Choral Festival in October.
- Dr. Josh Armstrong's fundraising project was one of only three to be selected for Delta State's second annual Spring for Success Online Giving Day. He raised \$1,250 to purchase MIDI controllers and related equipment for DSU music students.
- The 2020 Delta State High School Honor Band, held in January, was comprised of 250 auditioned students. The clinicians were Michael Colburn, former commander conductor of the United States Marine Corps "President's Own;" Stephanie DeLuca, Doctoral Teaching Assistant from Florida State; and Dee Dee Pitts, Gulfport School District teacher and DSU alumna.
- The Department hosted a visit by Jackson State University tuba-euphonium professor, Dr. Patrick Rettger. He presented a master class followed by a tuba recital featuring works for tuba and electronic accompaniment.
- The Hint of Lime Brass Trio performed and gave a master class. In celebration of National Women's History Month, the group prominently featured works written by women composers.
- Alumnus Monica Ely (BM Delta State 2016, MM Eastern Michigan University 2018) gave a presentation at DSU, "Where Singing Meets Science: Serving Singers and Dispelling Vocal Myths."
- DSU Opera Students attended the National Opera Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The students included: Amber Browning, JaMareus Freeman, Jayla Isom, Zathomasious (Tiko) Jones, and Saavedra Martin.
- DSU freshman, Saavedra Martin, was invited to sing in a masterclass presented by Dr. Howard Watkins, an assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera at the National Opera Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.
- A DSU trio was selected as an alternate for the Musical at the National Opera Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Theatre Division of the Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition. The student ensemble included: JaMareus Freeman, Jayla Isom, and Austin Means.
- Seven DSU piano students attended the State Conference of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA) held at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

- The Delta State University Department of Music hosted the 11th annual Art of the Piano. The guest artist and teacher was Dr. E. L. Lancaster, executive editor, piano, for Alfred Music, and an adjunct piano faculty member at California State University, Northridge.
- Delta State's Mu Phi Epsilon chapter received two awards from the fraternity's international office. The first was the Most Outstanding Collegiate Chapter in the Southeast Province. They also were rewarded for Outstanding Member Recruitment. Mu Phi Epsilon is a professional music fraternity.
- The flute studio hosted several guest artists using Zoom. Students participated in career development meetings with Dr. Kimberlee Goodman, Interim CEO of the Jazz Arts Group in Columbus, Ohio; and Dr. Katheryn Emeneth, freelance flute teacher and entrepreneur in Atlanta, Georgia. Topics included: 21<sup>st</sup> century revenue streams for musicians, career opportunities using our musical training, and running a successful private studio.
- Spectrum Winds, from the United States Air Force Band of the West, performed a recital and worked with music students from the studios of Dr. Bret Pimentel and Dr. Shelley Collins.
- Dr. Shelley Collins and Dr. Bret Pimentel hosted guest artist Dr. Andrea Cheeseman, a former DSU Music faculty member. Dr. Cheeseman performed a recital of electro-acoustic clarinet music and participated in a Q&A session with students.
- The Delta State Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Bret Pimentel, performed at the International Conference on the Blues.
- The Delta State Jazz Ensemble held its Big Band Bash event at the Cleveland Country Club, and raised over \$2,300 for equipment, sheet music, and scholarships.
- Kevin Tharp, DSU alumna, and adjunct instructor of music at DSU, successfully defended his dissertation and received the Ph.D. in music education from the University of Mississippi.
- The Pi Kappa Lambda faculty nominated two students for membership, for their grade point averages and musicality. Those students are: Catheryne Booth and Sung-Eun Ryu.

## Social Work

- Established the **Interprofessional Center for Empathetic-Action Simulative Education (EASE)** located on the first floor of Kethley Hall. Using faculty and student volunteers, the EASE Center implements the DSU BSW Program's Poverty Simulation, Virtual Dementia Tour, In Her Shoes Domestic Violence Simulation, and new COPD and Obesity simulators as well as new virtual child abuse investigation and mock courtroom simulations. The goal of the EASE Center is to empower students to be compassionate and competent helping professionals through meaningful interactive, interprofessional simulative education.
- Partnered with Dr. Vernell Bennett-Fairs and the Office of Student Affairs to establish the **Statesman's Shelf Campus Food Pantry**. Social work student volunteers assisted in holding food drives, putting up informational fliers, and staffing the pantry. The department holds a position on the College and University Anti-Hunger Alliance through the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi.
- Three of four social work faculty received *Connected Educator Awards*. Our newest faculty member, Loretta Jackson, received the *Top Connected Educator Award!*

- Developed the inter-professional **Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST) Certificate Program**, which educates students to be effective advocates for children and families experiencing abuse, neglect, and family violence. The program teaches the evidence-based Trauma-Informed Care and Multi-Disciplinary Team perspectives for reporting, investigating, intervening and prosecuting cases of child maltreatment. Our first CAST courses were offered this summer.
- To showcase the new CAST Certificate program, the Department of Social Work hosted its Annual Margaret Tullos Field Symposium in February, which featured CAST in special presentations by Taylor Cheeseman, Acting Commissioner of the MS Department of Child Protection Services; Shane Garrard, Bureau Director of Addictive Services at the Mississippi Department of Mental Health; Hollie Jeffrey and Amanda Adams, CAST Directors of the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi; Devon Loggins, President and CEO of the Methodist Children’s Homes of Mississippi; and Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Alabama and author of many scholarly articles and books on trauma-informed care in child maltreatment. As mandated reporters of child maltreatment, local practitioners earned Continuing Education credits for participating in these presentations on professional child advocacy.
- Partnered with the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi and the Zero Abuse Project to begin working toward the development a community Children’s Advocacy Center in the MS Delta, possibly housed at or near DSU to provide Multi-Disciplinary prevention, forensic investigation, and intervention services for children and families experiencing abuse and to partner with our CAST program for education, research, and students volunteer and field placements.
- Partnered with Dean Moon in the DSU Graduate and Continuing Studies and the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi and the Zero Abuse Project to begin the development of a series of interprofessional Continuing Education Programs on Child Abuse Reporting, Prevention, Investigation and Intervention for professional social workers, nurses, doctors, teachers, first responders, police officers, legal and court professionals through DSU’s new CAST program. This would train professionals already working in child advocacy to improve various competencies in their provision of Trauma-Informed Care. The Department of Social Work and Graduate and Continuing Studies are currently planning with the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi for DSU to be the virtual host and continuing education provider for their national One Loud Voice Conference the first week in September 2-4, 2020!
- Developed a statement in response to current events that highlight our commitment to professional cultural sensitivity and competence: “Social, economic, and environmental justice are important to the DSU BSW Program and are part of the NASW *Code of Ethics* which we adhere to and the CSWE *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards* competencies which we demonstrate. We teach it throughout our curriculum, include it in our assignments, volunteer activities, and simulations, and model it through kindness, respect, advocacy, and various activities. All our teaching, research, and service activities seek to promote and advocate justice for all, especially the poor, vulnerable and oppressed at all levels of social work practice. Whenever injustice occurs, we try to listen and learn so we can respond appropriately.” Currently, we serve on the MS Chapter of NASW’s Social Work Education Consortium on Social Justice to develop education and practice initiatives that address social injustices to demonstrate our commitment.

- In 2019-2020, despite the pandemic and shift to virtual volunteering, students in social work courses provided over 18,100 hours of volunteer services in the MS Delta in 258 volunteer and field placements worth over \$460,283.00 of labor-value to the community.

### **Delta Music Institute (DMI)**

- In February, DMI received a donation from Jim Tims and Quality Steel to conduct a recruiting tour to regional high schools resulting in a 3 day trip of the DMI Recruiting Band to perform at schools in Jackson, Brookhaven, and Gulfport. The group traveled with all its own sound equipment and student technicians as well as performers and student tour managers.
- They performed for over 800 high school students during the tour and the story was featured on Delta News TV.

### **Art Department**

- Delta State University is the only public institution to offer an animation concentration in Mississippi.
- Mansoor Shams, DSU's new assistant professor of animation, has worked for top animation studios, such as Warner Brother, Fox TV Animation, and Nelvana, with credits including the movie *Space Jam* and *Batman: The Animated*.
- With the efforts and connections of Mansoor Shams, the Disney Vice President, Mr. Jay Francis, is scheduled to attend for a Zoom meeting in September 2020. Mr. Jay Francis also agreed to come to DSU campus in the spring of 2021.
- Ted Fisher, Assistant Professor of Art, DMAC Video/Film, published a paper entitled *How Blue-Green Was My Valley? Addressing Unexpected Issues Related to Teaching Media Online* was accepted for inclusion in the *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies (JCMS)* collection on online teaching. The completed article is due October 1, with publication expected after that.
- Ted Fisher also published *The Choreographer as a Witch in Contemporary Dance Documentaries*, which was published to the *Frames Cinema Journal, Issue 16 (Magical Women, Witches & Healers)*. <http://framescinemajournal.com/article/the-choreographer-as-a-witch-in-contemporary-dance-documentaries/>
- Ted Fisher Professional Presentations:
  - July 31, 2020 – **“We have no leaders, we are all leaders!” Collecting and Celebrating the 1969 Black Student Sit-In at Delta State College** (Co-presenter)  
Presentation (via Zoom) for the Society of Mississippi Archivists.
  - May 18, 2020 – **The Personal Jetpack, the Broken Slot Machine, and the future of documentary shorts** (Presenter)  
Presented (via Zoom) at the Facultad de Ciencias de la Comunicación, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí.  
Raquel Espinosa Castañeda, Profesor Investigador de la FCC de la UASLP (organizer)
- Ted Fisher Service Projects:

- A 26 minute, 46 second documentary called “The Sit-In” is nearing completion. This was produced with the inclusion of DMAC students and in collaboration with The 1969 Black Student Sit-In Oral History Project (including Dr. Carrie Freshour, Prof. Arlene Sanders, Sykina Butts, Tyler Wells, Michelle Johansen, Dr. Charles Westmoreland and Emily Jones).
- Nathan Pietrykowski, Assistant Professor of Art, Foundations was involved in the selected group and juried exhibitions.
  - International Exhibitions
    - 2020 *10th International Printmaking Biennial Douro*, Museu do Douro, Alijó, Portugal
    - 2019 *ImMigration Project II*, SG Gallery of Scuola Internazionale di Grafica , Venezia, Italia
    - 2019 *3rd Global Print Exhibition*, Museu do Douro, Alijó, Portugal
  - National Exhibitions
    - 2020 *The Right of Unfounded Fear*, Visual Art Complex, University of Colorado in Boulder, CO
    - 2019 *2019-2021 SGCI Members Traveling Exhibition* , The University of Texas Arlington, TX
    - 2019 *Moving Pictures* , Morrissey Gallery, Davenport, IA
    - 2019 *Innovations in Printmaking* , Cade Gallery, Arnold, MD
    - 2019 *Priority Mail* , Ground Floor Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
    - 2019 *Sideshow Slideshow*, Red Garage Studio, Minneapolis, MN
    - 2019 *Southern Hospitality* , Southern Graphics Council Conference 2019, Denton, TX
- Robyn Wall, Assistant Professor of Art
  - International Exhibitions
    - 2020 *10th International Printmaking Biennial Douro*, Museu do Douro, Alijó, Portugal (Invitational)
    - 2020 *The Moth Migration Project*, Bundaberg Regional Gallery, Bundaberg, Australia
    - 2020 Gympie Regional Gallery, Gympie, Australia
    - 2020 Oak Hill Gallery, Mornington, Australia
    - 2019 *ImMigration II*, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy
    - 2019 *4th Global Print*, Museu do Douro, Alijó, Portugal (Invitational)
  - National Exhibitions
    - 2019 - 2021 *SGCI Members Traveling Exhibition*, The Gallery, University of Texas, Arlington, TX (Juried)

## **Mathematics & Sciences**

- Graduates and current students were selected for internships and full-time positions.
  - Pamela Bellamy, B.S. Environmental Sciences, has been hired by the MS Military Department at Camp McCain in Grenada, MS as an Environmental Officer.
  - Angelise Campbell, B.S.E., Math Education, accepted a middle school math teaching position in DeSoto County School District.

- Xavier Reed, BSE, Math Education, accepted a middle school math teaching position in Cleveland School District and was admitted into the Masters of Arts in Teaching program here at Delta State University.
- Aaron Sassenrath-Cole, B.S., Environmental Science Wildlife Management and BAS-GAI major, accepted a position with Skyris and will be working in the NGA New Campus East facility in Springfield, VA. He will be performing geospatial intelligence analysis work.
- Madisyn Sheraka, B.S. Biology Education, has accepted a position at Trimpe Middle School in Bethalto, IL as their 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher and was admitted into the Curriculum and Instruction graduate program at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville.
- Sarah Stevens, B.S.E., Math Education, accepted a middle school math teaching position in Cleveland School District.
- George Baggett, B.S., Environmental Science, secured an internship with Civil Link Engineering this summer.
- Charles Darnell, B.S., Environmental Science, secured an internship for Summer 2020 with The Pictsweet Company.
- Dustin Dye, B.S., Environmental Science, was hired as a surveyor.
- Dr. Steven Ryan Fulgam, B.S., ACS Chemistry and Environmental Science graduate) successfully defended his dissertation at Colorado State University titled “Insights into the Biosphere-Atmosphere Exchange of Organic Gases from Seasonal Observations over a Ponderosa Pine Forest”. Dr. Fulgham has also accepted a position as a physical scientist for the Natural Systems Characterization Branch of the U.S. EPA in Durham, NC.
- Kendal Davis, B.S., Biology and Environmental Science), completed her Master’s degree in science at South Dakota State.
- Raven Allison, B.S., Biology and Environmental Science), completed her Master’s degree in Entomology at Texas A&M.
- Admission into Professional, Masters, and Doctoral Programs:
  - Kayden Kelly, B.S., Mathematics was admitted into the Masters of Science in Mathematics program at the University of Mississippi.
  - Kayleen Fly, B.S., Mathematics was admitted into the Masters of Science in Mathematics program at the University of Memphis.
  - Kevin Sodachanch, BS, Biology was admitted into the Physical Therapy Doctoral Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.
- Student Awards
  - Pamela Bellamy and Micheal Zarske, each received the Millsaps Award for their abstract submissions to the MS Academy of Science. The Millsaps Award is given to those who abstracts are rated in the top 10% of undergraduate submissions.
  - Jake Harvey, MAS-GIT graduate student, received the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Student Award for his presentation at the MS Academy of Science.
  - Michael Maly, B.S., Chemistry, NCAA Elite 90 for Division II Men's Swimming and Diving.
  - Tristan Moseley, B.S., Biology, was accepted into the MS Rural Physician Scholarship Program.

- Aman Syed Mohammad, B.S., Biology, was accepted into the MS Rural Physician Scholarship Program.
- Faculty Awards
  - Dr. Ahm Reza, Associate Professor of Biology, received the Outstanding Peer-Reviewed Publication award from the Mississippi chapter of The Wildlife Society for his work on Bengal tigers.
- Faculty Publications
  - Dr. Liza Bondurant, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, and Dr. Tanya McKinney, Associate of Biology, and co-authored and published their paper entitled, “Evaluation of a Benzalkonium Chloride Hand Sanitizer in Reducing Transient *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacterial Skin Contamination in Health Care Workers.” in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.
  - Dr. Ahm Reza, Associate Professor of Biology, published his paper entitled “Activity budget of wintering Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) at Damar Char, Bangaldesh in the journal *Marine Ornithology*.
  - Dr. Dafang Wang’s, paper entitled “Small RNA-mediated *de novo* silencing of *Ac/Ds* transposons is initiated by alternative transposition in maize” was accepted for publication by the journal *Genetics*.
- Faculty And Student Presentations
  - Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (Dr. Liza Bondurant)
  - Botanical Society of America (Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding)
  - Mississippi Academy of Science (Dr. Reza, Wang, Baghai-Riding, Blackwell, Katembe, Kagumba)

## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND AVIATION**

- DEOC provided over 486 hours of services to 1,030 students
- Acquired funds from USDA to establish a Business Assistance Center (BAC)

### **Management, Marketing, and General Business**

- Dr. Lisa Cooley completed her PhD & was selected as “ The Lady Statesman Emerald Award of Excellence Top Faculty”
- Dr. Zina Taran was awarded tenure and promotion.
- Dr. Cameron Montgomery was the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics (SOBIE), President.
- April Mondy was featured in ACUE’s effective online teaching practices series.
- DSU Phi Beta Lambda Chapter
  - Students Davontre Henderson and Alexis Rover finished first place in the Phi Beta Lambda National Competition in “Emerging Business Issues”.
  - Jasmine Evans finished 6<sup>th</sup> place in Public Speaking in the Phi Beta Lambda National Competition

- Jasmine Evans and Synethia Mathews finished 10<sup>th</sup> place in the Phi Beta Lambda National Competition

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

### Partnerships:

- DSU's College of Education and Human Sciences' Teacher Education unit represented one of three Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning to partner with the Mississippi Department of Education and the University of Florida as part of the **Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR)**, shaping policy to reform teacher and leader preparation and revise licensure standards in the state. Dr. Corlis Snow, Dr. Tim Watkins, Dr. Merideth Van Namen, and Dr. Leslie Griffin form the core partnership team for DSU. At DSU, the team has worked on culturally relevant pedagogy as a major emphasis.
- The Division of Teacher Education, Leadership, and Research successfully completed year 1 of the **Delta Sunflower Project**, a multi-year grant made possible through partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education and funded through the Kellogg Foundation. The first cohort of 12 future educators began coursework in Fall 2019. The second cohort begins in Fall 2020 and promises to yield 20 DSU students in either the traditional Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree or the Alternate Route in Teaching degree. The third and final cohort will be added in Summer 2021. These students will graduate in the next 1 to 3 years to serve in the Sunflower Consolidated School District as certified teachers, which will reduce the teacher shortage in that area and strengthen the partnership with the school district.

### Grants:

- The COEHS managed in excess of **\$250,000 generated by external grants** to provide tuition and support for students across a range of degree programs.

### Accreditation/Program Improvement:

- The **Hamilton-White Child Development Center** underwent major facility and programmatic renovations in preparation for an upcoming 2020-2021 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation site visit, in an overarching effort to ensure that the Delta has an accredited model training center for those who seek to provide early childhood education in the area.
- The **Counselor Education programs** hosted an accreditation site review by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in February 2020. They had a successful visit, and the accreditation duration will be announced at the end of July/early August 2020.

### Enrollment Growth:

- Graduate programs in educator preparation have experienced significant growth during the past academic year. There has been an approximately 37% increase in enrollment collectively in the graduate level Elementary Education, Alternate Route in Teaching,

and Educational Administration and Supervision programs. The Master of Arts in Teaching program alone sustained an approximate 214% increase in enrollment during this period. Other programs are continuing to add new admissions for Fall 2020 so these numbers are expected to continue to increase across all graduate programs.

#### Faculty Spotlights:

- Dr. Corlis Snow, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, received the S. E. Kossman Outstanding Teacher Award from the University and was the December commencement speaker.
- Dr. Mary Bess Pannel, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education, is serving as the Mississippi Counseling Associations President-elect.

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

- Successfully completed national (CCNE) and state (MS IHL) Nursing Accreditation for all programs [BSN, MSN, DNP] with all standards met and no compliance issues noted
- BSN [pre-licensure program] 100% NCLEX Pass Rate for CY 2019
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program ranked in top 100 [actually ranked #66] by *U.S. News & World Report* for **Best Online Master's in Nursing Program in 2020**.
- RN-BSN Program ranked #3 in Mississippi as the **2020 Best Online RN to BSN Program** by [RegisteredNusing.org](http://RegisteredNusing.org)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program ranked as top *Most Affordable Online DNP Program, Fastest Online Post-Master's [Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)] to DNP*, and ranked #3 as **Top DNP Program in Mississippi** by [DNPPPrograms.com](http://DNPPPrograms.com)

### **ROBERTS-LAFORGE LIBRARY**

- For the past 20 years, Roberts-LaForge Library has remained the top rated general University program and departmental service according to every administered student graduation survey.

The University Archives and the MS Delta Chinese Heritage Museum organized Re-Entry MS: A Reunion with the support of the Mississippi Humanities Council. It offered a wide range of programs recognizing the contributions of Chinese-America Deltans who played key roles in NASA programs. It also coincided with the in-house curated Re-Entry MS: 50 years after Apollo exhibit.

## **GRADUATE AND CONTINUING STUDIES**

- Increased summer enrollment (16.9% vs. Summer 2019)
- Increased graduate enrollment (32.2% vs. Summer 2019; based on registration numbers, projection for Fall term is 32% increase)
- Successfully submitted SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report and QEP Impact Report
- Grants Office: increased grant funding 42% (\$6,160,973)

## **STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER**

- Transitioned most Student Success services to online format during SP20 semester to accommodate academic changes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic; including tutoring, supplemental instruction, S.O.S. alerts/coaching, CED 099 instruction, pre-registration, undeclared advising, C2C coaching, and FYS classes.

### Academic Advising Services:

- Updated online advising resources and created an Academic Advising Resources Canvas shell to assist faculty with remote advising.
- Acquired responsibility for Complete to Compete (C2C) adult learner degree completion program; including assistance with admissions and financial aid, academic support and coaching, academic advising for students with <six hours to complete, and degree program selection for students ineligible for BUS.
- Darla Poole, Coordinator of Academic Advising Services, was selected for inaugural cohort of DSU LEADS staff leadership program.

### Academic Support Services:

- Secured four-year funding totaling \$400,000 from the Woodward Hines Educational Foundation to launch Make an IMPACT project to serve the educational needs of at-risk students.
- Launched virtual proctoring of ACCUPLACER, with DSU being first public Institution in MS to offer it virtually.
- Tricia Killebrew, Coordinator of Academic Support & Developmental Studies, successfully defended her dissertation and earned an Ed.D. at DSU in May 2020 in Professional Studies, emphasis in Higher Education.

### First Year Seminar:

- Taught 702 first-year freshmen and transfer students in FYS 100/103/300.
- Utilized FYS as a perfect course for early alert, with a correlation of  $r=.63$  between FYS grade and overall term GPA. FYS catches them early -- FYS is not an “easy A”, but it is a “diagnostic A” in a sense.
- Recruited and selected FA20 FYS instructors composed of faculty and staff diverse in culture, ethnicity, and educational backgrounds.

#### International Education/Fulbright Office:

- Continued Erasmus+ partnership faculty exchange with John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) in Poland, and finalized new international partnerships with University of Caxias do Sul, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, and UniEVANGÉLICA in Brazil.
- Hosted Polish Fulbright Scholar from Harvard University through Fulbright Program's Outreach Lecturing Fund.
- Partnered with DSU Counselor Education and Psychology to host Mexican National Council for Science and Technology Fellow, Luis Carlos Fonseca Leon.
- Selected as one of 12 U.S. host sites for a two-year Japan Outreach Initiative coordinator.
- Michelle Johansen, Coordinator of International Education, was selected as MS Association of International Educators/StudyMS representative at international recruiting fair in Istanbul, Turkey.

#### International Student Services:

- Supported DSU's F1 international students in COVID-19 crisis through consistent communication, updating DSU-issued travel documents (I-20), and monitoring SEVP/ICE COVID19-related government policy changes/updates.
- Selected as continuing partner with UGRAD exchange program and entered into new partnership with Year of Exchange in America for Russians (YEAR). Unfortunately, due to COVID, these programs are pending.

#### **Ford Center for Teaching and Learning:**

- Piloted the third-party faculty-development program Faculty Guild. The program provided two Delta State faculty with an opportunity to join a national cohort of faculty from related disciplines and pursue individually determined teaching goals under the direction of a facilitator. Dr. Liza Bondurant, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. Kumiko Shimizu, Professor of Music and Collaborative Pianist, were selected to represent Delta State in the program.
- FCTL also has registered four Delta State faculty for the August course, "Significant Learning by Design," taught by L. Dee Fink, author of the seminar work *Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses*. The following faculty thus far were selected to participate by their academic deans:
  - Dr. Maia Wegmann, Assistant Professor of English
  - Shalando Jones, Instructor of Communications
  - Leslie Mancini, Instructor of Speech and Hearing Sciences
  - Angela Campbell, Instructor of Nursing
- FCTL expanded its YouTube channel to 39 videos, 7 of which having obtained over 100 views, 3 over 200 views, and 1 over 400 views.
- FCTL now offers Canvas courses and has expanded its collaboration with OIT. Dr. Gray Kane created the courses "Online Pedagogy" and "Hybrid Training." FCTL and OIT collaborated to create the Canvas course, "Expedited Online Course Review."

- Dr. Gray Kane received an acknowledgement in “Intentional design and implementation of a ‘flipped’ upper division geology course: Improving student learning outcomes, persistence, and attitudes,” written by Kallina M. Dunkle and Jennifer L. Yantz and published in the Journal of Geoscience of Education in July 2020.