



The Dean's Corner

The annual student conference will be held January 25 to 27, 2001 at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center. The conference will focus on current issues on minorities and graduate education. Activities will include a recruitment fair, presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and invited speakers.

Invited Speakers

- Dr. Ansley Abraham**, Director SREB Doctoral Scholars Program.
- Dr. Isiah Warner**, Boyd Professor and Philip W. West Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, Louisiana State University.

Sessions/Presenter

- "Making the Transition to Graduate School", **Dr. George Adebisi**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Mississippi State University.
- "Choosing the Right Program and Advancing Toward the Doctoral Degree", **Dr. Irene Johnson**, Dean of the Graduate School, Alcorn State University.
- "Balancing your Life" **Dr. Leon Anderson**, Director for the Division of Minority Student Affairs & Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry, University of Mississippi Medical Center.
- "Working in Collaboration to Improve the Doctoral Going Rate", **Dr. Maurice Eftink**, Interim Dean of the Graduate School and **Dr. Donald Cole**, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Mississippi.
- "Seeking Financial Fellowships, Assistantships and Other Financial Aid" **Dr. Derek Rovaris**, Director of Graduate Placement, Xavier University and **Dr. Maurice Eftink**, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, University of Mississippi.
- "Tips on Presenting Research Effectively and Recent Trends in Scientific Ethics" **Dr. John Wilson**, Chair of Natural Sciences, Dillard University and **Dr. Anselm Griffin**, Professor of Chemistry and Polymer Science, University of Southern Mississippi.
- "Building Relationships with Administrators, Colleagues and Students" **Dr. Constance Bland**, Chair of Math & Science, Mississippi Valley State University.
- "Proposal Writing, Thesis/Dissertation Writing" **Dr. Marsha Williams**, Professor of Computer Science, Mississippi State University.

"The Doctoral Process" **Dr. Dorris R. Robinson-Gardner**, Dean of the Graduate School, Jackson State and **Dr. William Person**, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Mississippi State University.

Graduate students, faculty and researchers are encouraged to attend the conference. To receive more information contact:

Morris Britton
 (601) 979-2455
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Graduate Student News

News from the Chemistry Department-

The Department of Chemistry and the Computational Center for Molecular Structure and Interactions and the US Army Experimental Waterway Station in Vicksburg hosted the *Ninth*



Conference on Current Trends in Computational Chemistry in Vicksburg, November 3 & 4. The program included invited papers and contributed posters in all areas of

Quantum and Computational Chemistry. The conference was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, The Army HPC Research Center, the National Institutes of Health and the Office of Naval Research (HPVCI).

Pictured to the right are Latasha Salter (a research associate from Tougaloo College) and **Gareth Forde** (Ph.D. student in Chemistry) discussing his poster entitled, "An ab-initio Study on Methylation of Guanin (G0, Cytosine (C) and GC Base Pair".



Yevgeniy Podolyn (Ph.D. student in Chemistry) presented his work entitled, "Intramolecular Proton Transfer in Isolated and Monohydrated 2-Thiocytosine, 5-Azacytosine, and Cytosine Bases".



Ben C. Ngwudike, a Ph.D. student in Education Administration, will present a paper entitled, "Improving Student Achievement: What the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Tells Us about Curriculum, Classrooms, and Teachers," at the National Association of African American Studies. The meeting will be held February 12-17, 2001 in Houston, Texas.

Strategic Planning Conference News-

Four graduate students participated in the university's strategic planning conference, "Clarity and Consensus: The Future of Jackson State University". The students were: **Joel Swan**, Criminal Justice and President of the Graduate Student Association, **Sharon Johnson**, doctoral program in Business Administration, **Bobbie Walker**, doctoral program in Education Administration, and **Kenyetta McCurdy**, doctoral program in Education Administration. The conference was held January 11-12, 2001 at the Crowne Plaza in Jackson. The students assisted in identifying eight major strategic areas for the university to develop additional vision, goals, and strategies. Strategic issues will be discussed in open forums during the Spring Semester. For more information on the strategic planning process, visit the website: <http://www.jsums.edu/~jsublue>.

Spring 2001 Graduate Orientation



The Graduate School held Spring Orientations on January 10 and 11, 2001. **Dr. Dorris Robinson-Gardner**, Dean of the Graduate School, and **Mr. Joel Swan**, President of the Graduate Student Association, welcomed the new students to JSU. **Mr. Curtis Gore**, Coordinator for Graduate Admissions, discussed techniques important for successfully completing a graduate degree. Procedures for successful matriculation and graduate student financial awards were discussed. **Dr. Jeffrey Zubkowski** conducted the event.

Graduate Faculty News

Dr. Olurominiyi O. Ibitayo, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration published, "Relocated Citizens' Perceptions and Attitudes Regarding Indoor Application of Toxic Agricultural Pesticides" in the *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*. This work was supported by the Mississippi Urban Research Center.

Dr. Marlene Setze, Assistant Professor Sociology, was elected the Chair of the Institutional Research Board (IRB). All student and faculty research involving human subjects must be approved by the IRB prior to the conduct of the research.

Dr. Thomas Dunaye, Professor of Public Health and Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences, and **Dr. Marinelle Payton**, Associate Professor and Chair of Public Health, were elected to serve on the Board of the Academy of African-American Programs in Public Health in November, 2000.

Dr. Francis E. Chigbo, Professor of Chemistry, **Dr. John N. Mbonifor** (Ph.D., Environmental Science, 1997) and **Dr. M. Mehendale** (University of Louisiana at Monroe) have published an article entitled, "Polyamine Protection Against Chemically Induced Hepatotoxicity" in the *International Journal of Toxicology*, [19:391-4000, 2000].



News from the Mississippi Urban Research Center-

The Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) held its **2000 Summer Faculty Research Forum** November 28 in the University Park Auditorium. Faculty presenters and titles were:

Dr. A. Finley-Hervey, Assistant Professor of Management, "Protected Class Members' Perceptions of Urban Policy: African-Americans vs. Affirmative Action";

Dr. Emeka O. C. Nwagwu, Chair of Healthcare Administration, "Windfall Revenues and Rainy Day Funds: State Government Lessons From the Ant and the Grasshopper";

Dr. Matthew Dalbey, Assistant Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, "Sprawl and Social Inequalities in the Jackson Metropolitan Area: Seeking a Just, Equitable, and Prosperous Region from the Inside Out";

Dr. Niyi Ibitayo, Assistant Professor of Public Policy & Administration, "Separate and Unequal?: The Influences of Race and Class on the Location of Locally-Unwanted-Land-Uses in Urban Mississippi";

Dr. Safiya Omari, Assistant Professor of Social Work, "Coping in the Lives of Black Women: A Qualitative Analysis"; and,

Dr. Mustafa Younis, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration, "Comparison of Profitability and Efficiency of For-Profit with Not-For-Profit Hospitals: A Case of Mississippi".

For more information on MURC and its programs, contact **Dr. Mark Colomb**, Director, at 979-4193.

Self-Study Update-

Dr. James Ammons, Chair of the SACS Reaffirmation Visiting Team, and **Dr. Walter Mercer** conducted a preliminary visit of Jackson State on January 16. They presented the expectations for the evaluation team visit scheduled for April. **All members of the JSU faculty, staff and administration must be on campus for this visit.**

The Graduate Faculty

The Graduate Faculty consists of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the academic deans and those members of the general faculty who by their scholarly attainments in their own fields of specialization have demonstrated their competence to offer graduate instruction.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Graduate Faculty may teach graduate courses, supervise and serve on supervisory committees for students working toward post-baccalaureate degrees, and vote on nominations for the Graduate Council and serve on the Graduate Council.

Associate Graduate Faculty may teach graduate courses, supervise masters' theses, co-supervise doctoral dissertations, serve on supervisory committees for students working toward post-baccalaureate degrees, and vote on nominations for the Graduate Council and serve on the Graduate Council.

Adjunct Graduate Faculty may teach graduate courses and co-supervise and serve on supervisory committees for students working toward post-baccalaureate degrees.

PROCEDURE

The Graduate Faculty Status committee consists of one representative from each school at the University. After careful review of each application, the committee makes a decision based on the criteria. A report is made to the full Graduate Council who act on the recommendations of the committee.

The application process for graduate faculty status consists of several steps.

1. The faculty member must make their requests known to their department chair and school dean.
2. The school dean forwards the request to the Dean of the Graduate School.
3. The Dean of the Graduate School forwards all applications to the Graduate Faculty Status Committee for action.
4. A report is made to the full Graduate Council who acts on the recommendations of the committee.
5. The Dean of the Graduate School then notifies the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
6. The Vice President for Academic Affairs notifies the faculty member of the decision on graduate faculty status.

The criteria and the application form are available in the Office of the Graduate School and at our website.

FIVE ESSENTIAL ROLES & FUNCTIONS of GRADUATE ADVISORS

- I. Reliable Information Source
- II. Departmental Socializer
- III. Advocate
- IV. Role Model
- V. Occupational Socializer

Working relationships between faculty, staff, and students are an important component of graduate education at Jackson State. The quality of these relationships can make or break the graduate school experience. The development of a positive learning environment depends on a shared vision of educational values, objectives and expectations. It is the joint responsibility of faculty, staff, and students to work together to nurture this vision, and to encourage freedom of inquiry, demonstrate personal and professional integrity, and insure a climate of mutual respect. The following six principles are essential elements in a productive environment for graduate education at Jackson State:

1. Understanding the environment.

Faculty, staff, and students must each take the initiative to learn the policies, rules, regulations, and practices that affect them, their work, and the academic units. The Graduate Catalog, departmental or program handbooks, pertinent University publications, funding agency references, and other resources can typically be obtained from several sources. These include graduate program officers, the Internet, registered student organizations, department faculty, other students, faculty advisors, and thesis, project and dissertation committee chairs.

2. Academic honesty, professional integrity, and confidentiality.

These qualities, academic honesty, professional integrity, and confidentiality, are the responsibility of all faculty, staff, and students. Each member of the graduate community must endeavor to adhere to the highest level of these ideals in all their personal and professional activities.

3. A clear course of study.

The student and his/her faculty advisor should develop and agree upon a clear plan of academic study and the responsibilities associated with it. Careful planning and discussion throughout a graduate program are the best ways to avoid later misunderstandings and problems relating to retention and graduation.

4. An atmosphere of openness.

Students and faculty must work to establish and maintain an environment that is open, sensitive, and encourages free discussion between members of the graduate community. Clear, two-way communication is a critical ingredient in a successful graduate experience.

5. Acknowledgement of intellectual rights and property.

Students and faculty should discuss issues associated with academic freedom, intellectual property, authorship, and publication as part of the student's academic plan. Resolution of these issues early is often the best way to avoid later disputes.

6. Evaluation and Feedback.

Evaluation, reflection, and feedback are integral parts of the academic process. These assessment activities should be a regular part of every graduate program. Early, frequent, and constructive feedback help to prevent small differences from becoming serious problems.

HEADWAE Award

The Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1988 to honor academically talented students and faculty members who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence. Each year the Mississippi Legislature recognizes one student and faculty member from each college/university in the State for their outstanding achievements.

Dr. Debasis Mitra, Associate Professor of Computer Science, is the 2000-2001 recipient of the HEADWAE Award. His research interests include: Spatio-temporal constraint propagation and their applications; multi-dimensional databases; and intelligent systems. Dr. Mitra joined the JSU Faculty in 1994. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the American Association of Artificial Intelligence and the Association of Computing Machinery.



The student selected was **Ms. Megan Lynette Richmond**, a graduating senior in Speech/Communicative Disorders. Ms. Richmond's accomplishments and memberships include: Presidential Scholar, W.E.B. DuBois Honor Society, JSU New Student Mentor Program, and the National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Visiting Professors from Belarus-



Visiting Jackson State University during the months of January and February are **Ms. Irina Chutkova**, Executive Director of the Gender Information and Policy Center - Ministry of Social Welfare of the Republic of Belarus, **Ms. Ekaterina Radko**, Junior Fellow of Center for Civic Education at the European Humanities University, **Ms. Christina Radulescu**, JSU-MCID, and **Dr. Alexander Guminsky**, Senior Researcher with ScienceSoft Corp. (Mins, Belarus). Dr. Guminsky will conduct a graduate seminar on conflict resolution for graduate students.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Dr. Dorris R. Robinson-Gardner, Dean
Dr. Jeffrey D. Zubkowski, Associate Dean
Mr. Curtis Gore, Coordinator Graduate Admissions
Ms. Rosetta Pride, Coordinator Student Services
Ms. Sarah Foote, Coordinator of Administrative Services

THE GRADUATE - FEATURE PAGE

Spring, 2001

Farewell-In the Fall 1999 issue of *The Graduate* we welcomed to Jackson State University a group of students from South Africa. We now bid them farewell.

The Students Farewell, by George Mashabane

As international students attending Jackson State University, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the University staff, faculty, chairs, and deans of the various schools which enabled us to be academically, socially, and emotionally matured. We would like to send a special message of gratitude to the following departments/offices. (1) Criminology and Criminal Justice: for guiding us and providing moral support when we really needed it. Let alone the academic advise that we received from our advisors; (2) Public



Policy and Administration: for steering our program and providing us a shoulder to lean upon during difficult times. Furthermore, we appreciate the kindness and enthusiasm with which the advisors and other lecturers assisted us; (3) Graduate School: We thank the Graduate School for recruiting and retaining us as graduate students during the past 18 months; and (4) International



Office: We would be naive and absurd if we forget to thank the Office of International Programs for recruiting us to come to Jackson State University. Your work is



commendable and you must continue with the global networking with the African countries because we are experiencing transitional times that require us to be more academically, socially, and politically prepared in order to come up with clearly enunciated policies.

We are of the opinion that we are ready to go to the field and plough back what we have learned to our communities. We have acquired almost what it takes to be global change agents and managers with a global mind set, global leadership skills

and the ability to lead cross-cultural teams at the workplace and in the community.



The message to Jackson State University is to keep up the academic excellence in uplifting and improving the quality of lives in different communities. You stood the test of time for years and this is the right time for you to walk tall in the world of academia. Face each day with courage and optimism.

technical, conceptual and other related skills that enable one to have a competitive edge in the labor market. We enjoyed most courses because they had a multinational and multicultural experience



Petronella Majози

To the Jackson State Graduate School we thank you for creating a climate and an atmosphere that is conducive to the culture of learning, coaching, mentoring and acquisition of human relations, designed to expand and nourish the global mind set, cross-cultural competency and global networking capability of middle managers. Furthermore, the courses created action learning which provided us with intellectual, interpersonal and international experiences.

One exciting thing about hardworking and putting more discipline in your studies is that you realize the joy and the pride that comes with it at the end of your studies.



Paul Kgasago and Alvin Matsimela



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring Semester 2001

January

4-5	Thurs-Fri	Registration, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
4-5	Thurs-Fri	Evening and Graduate Registration, 6- 8 p.m.
8	Monday	Classes Begin
8	Monday	A Late Fee of \$50.00 Begins
8	Monday	Class Schedules will be Purged for Non-Payment of Fees
10	Wednesday	A Late Fee of \$75.00 Begins
10	Wednesday	Graduate Student Orientation, 4:30 p.m., Graduate School, AT-1.
11	Thursday	Graduate Student Orientation, 4:30 p.m., Universities Center.
15	Monday	HOLIDAY-Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
16	Tuesday	Last Day to Complete Registration and/or Payment of Fees
16	Tuesday	A Late Fee of \$100.00 Begins and the Last Day to Add a Course

February

9	Friday	FORM III Due in the Graduate School Office for May Graduation
14	Wednesday	Last Day a Course May be Dropped with No Grade
16	Friday	Application Deadline for Graduate English Competency Examination, 4:00 pm.
23	Friday	Application Deadline for Graduate Area Comprehensive Examination, 4:00 pm.
23	Friday	Application Deadline for Doctoral Comprehensive Examination, 4:00 pm.
27	Tuesday	Last Day a Course May be Dropped with a "W" Grade

March

1	Thursday	Last Day to Apply for Admission and Institutional Financial Aid for Fall
2	Friday	Last Day to Defend Project, Thesis or Dissertation for May Graduation
3	Saturday	Graduate English Competency Examination, 8:00 a.m.
3	Saturday	Graduate Area Comprehensive Examination, 8:00 a.m.
3	Saturday	Doctoral Comprehensive Examination, 8:00 a.m.
5-10	Mon-Sat	Spring Break
8	Thursday	Last Day to Receive a Percentage Refund
12	Monday	Classes Resume
15	Thursday	Last Day to Apply for Admission for the Summer Graduate Session
15	Thursday	Financial Aid Decisions for Fall Due in Graduate School
30	Friday	Admission Decisions for Fall Due in Graduate School

April

10	Tuesday	Admission Decisions for Summer Due in Graduate School
12	Thursday	Last Day to Submit Project, Thesis or Dissertation for May Graduation
13	Friday	HOLIDAY-Good Friday
16	Monday	Classes Resume
Apr 18 - May 4		Early Registration for Summer Session and Fall Semester
30	Monday	Last Day to Withdraw from the University

May

3	Thursday	Last Day to Submit Final Corrections for Project, Thesis or Dissertation for May Graduation
4	Friday	Last Day to Submit Clearance Form (IV) for May Graduation
5-11	Sat-Fri	Final Examinations
12	Saturday	Commencement
26	Friday	Last Day to Defend Project, Thesis or Dissertation for Summer Graduation