

### The Dean's Corner



For fifty years, the graduate faculty at Jackson State University (JSU) has been making a difference by challenging minds, changing lives and increasing our graduate degree production rate in the state of Mississippi. Recently, JSU joined an august group of Universities awarding graduate degrees to minority students, ranking in the Top 20 of universities granting master-level and doctorate degrees to African Americans. The University was ranked second in awarding master's degrees in English and sixth in awarding master's degrees in Biology.

Overall, Jackson State University was ranked sixteenth among all colleges and universities in the awarding of PhD's across all disciplines and twentieth for awarding master's degrees across all disciplines. The rankings were based on degree production as reported by the U.S. Office of Education and published in Black Issues in Higher Education.

Thanks to our graduate faculty for your untiring efforts to increase our graduation rate.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, the Graduate School will celebrate 50 years of challenging minds and changing lives. If you are interested in serving on a 50th year celebration committee contact Ms. Sarah Foote in the Graduate School at (601) 979-4324.

### In the News.....

The Reverend Dr. Oscar A. Rogers, Dean of the Graduate School from 1969 to 1972, was awarded the *Rabbi Martin Katzenstein Award* for 2003 by the Harvard Divinity School. With this award, the Alumni/ae Association of the Harvard Divinity School seeks to honor a graduate who exhibits "a passionate and helpful interest in the lives of other people, an informed and realistic faithfulness, an embodiment of the idea that love is not so much a way of feeling as a way of acting, and a reliable sensor of humor." The award was presented at a ceremony held June 4, 2003 on the Harvard University Campus.

### First Ph.D. Graduate in Urban and Regional Planning

"Regional Environmental Accounting for Agricultural Land Use Change in Ottawa South Central from 1981 - 1996"



### Edmund Merem

In recent years, within the field of environmental accounting for changes in natural resource values, increasing attention has been paid to the national approach with less research directed at the regional level. This project develops a regional model to illustrate the process and factors responsible for change in the area of agricultural land. The model is then applied to the study area of Ottawa South Central in Eastern Ontario. Thirty variables are analyzed with descriptive statistics, and multivariate technique of Principal Components Analysis and Geographic Information System at the Census SubDivision (CSD) and Enumeration Area (EA) level for four census years from 1981 to 1996. Six selected CSD's and twenty EA's were also surveyed.

The study found that over a 15-year period there was an increasing incidence of change in the area of agricultural land, in the form of a decline throughout the entire study area. At the same time, other parts of the study area, such as Nepean Township, recorded some major gains, and the Osgoode and Rideau had moderate gains. Overall, the rising incidence of declines was more evident during the 1981 to 1986 and 1981 to 1996 census years, compared with other periods, such as 1986 to 1991 and 1991 to 1996. There was an increase in the set of land use factors, economic variables and capital intense farm types likely to trigger change through declines in area of agricultural land particularly with respect to consolidation and intensification. Conditions leading to gains, were notable among urban clientele factors, demography, and location. The study also pointed to the activities of farmers as part of the initiatives which spurred gains in the area and the existence of environmental degradation in the process of change. The contributions of the study to a system of regional environmental accounting were noted, while suggested areas of further research include the design of a regional agricultural land use information system.

**Dr. Dolye M. E. Robinson** is the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and **Dr. William Harris** is the department chair. For more information on the research of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, contact Dr. Harris at (601) 432-6865.



**Summer 2003  
Dissertations**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Clinical Psychology**

**Thomas S. Bearden**

*Dissertation:* "Electrophysical Correlates of Vigilance During a Continuous Performance Test in Healthy Adults"

Advisor - Dr. Jeffrey Cassisi.

**John D. Damon**

*Dissertation:* "Environmental and Individual Factors Associated with the Use of Mechanical Restraints and Seclusion for Children in a PRTF"

Advisor - Dr. Jeffrey Cassisi.

**Howard S. McGregor**

*Dissertation:* "Perceived Social Support and Physical Activity in Urban vs Rural Elderly Male Veteran Patients"

Advisor - Dr. Karen Lesniak

**Avila B. Steele**

*Dissertation:* "The Content of African American Mothers' HIV/AIDS Discussions with Their Teenaged Children"

Advisor - Dr. Jeffrey Cassisi.

**Environmental Science**

**Garthe K. Ford**

*Dissertation:* "Computational Studies on Methylation in Isolated and Paired Nucleic Acid Bases"

Advisor - Dr. Jerzy Leszczynski

**Dwayne J. Sutton**

*Dissertation:* "Molecular Mechanisms of Mercury Cytotoxicity, Mitogenesis, and Carcinogenesis in Human Liver Carcinoma (HepG2) Cells"

Advisor - Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

**Public Administration**

**Elizabeth Sharpe-Overman**

*Dissertation:* "The Boundaries of Personal Responsibility: An Analysis of Factors that Affect TANF Recipients in the State of Mississippi from Achieving Employment Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency"

Advisor - Dr. L. Frances P. Liddell

**Social Work**

**Estella Dunn-Morris**

*Dissertation:* "Contextualizing Chronic Homelessness Among Veterans: A Multivariate Analysis of Demographic, Clinical and Contextual Factors"

Advisor - Dr. Safiya R. Omari

**Pamela Higgins-Saulsberry**

*Dissertation:* "Racial Socialization, Academic Performance, and Social Adjustment in African American Youth: A Multivariate Analysis"

Advisor - Dr. Safiya R. Omari

**Jennifer Jackson-Savage**

*Dissertation:* "Keeping the Promise of Permanence: Older Children Placement Stability Predicted from Externalizing Behavior and Adaptability"

Advisor - Dr. Ruth Williams

**Mary Sims-Johnson**

*Dissertation:* "Developmental, Abuse, and Structural Predictors of Runaway Behavior among African-American Adolescents"

Advisor - Dr. Susie Spence

**Urban and Regional Planning**

**Edmund C. Merem**

*Dissertation:* "Regional Environmental Accounting for Agricultural Land Use Change in Ottawa South Central from 1981-1996"

Advisor - Dr. William M. Harris

**Selected Doctoral Facts at Jackson State**

Jackson State University offers doctoral degrees in nine areas:  
Doctor of Philosophy - Business, Chemistry, Clinical Psychology, Educational Administration, Environmental Science, Public Administration, Social Work, and Urban & Regional Planning.  
Doctor of Education - Early Childhood Education.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, Jackson State University awarded 27 doctoral degrees.

Jackson State University first awarded doctoral degrees in 1982.

A list of all dissertations completed at Jackson State University since 2000 are available at the Graduate School Website.

## Summer 2003 Graduates



**Janet Mogusu**, M.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision. Ms. Mogusu has been accepted into a doctoral program at Georgia State University. She comes from Kenya.



**Scott McGregor**, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is currently serving as a Psychology Supervisor at the Mississippi State Hospital. Mr. McGregor has accepted a position as a Senior Scientific Communications Scientist in the Microneuroscience Division of Eli Lilly and Company.

**Felix Okojie**, Public Health. Dr. Okojie enrolled in the MPH program to enhance his knowledge of public health and biomedical research. He is currently the Vice President for Research Development and Support and Federal Relations at JSU.



**Michael V. Johnson**, M.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision. Mr. Johnson currently is employed at Blackburn Middle School and serves as the assistant football coach and head girl's basketball coach. His goal is to obtain a school principalship.



**Ioan Sandu**, M.A.T. in English. He will enroll this fall in the specialist program in Educational Administration and Supervision, and continue to be an ESL Instructor. Mr. Sandu is originally from Transylvania.



**Shuguang Wang**, M.S. in Chemistry. Ms. Wang plans to continue her research in the Department of Chemistry in the area of phototoxicity of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

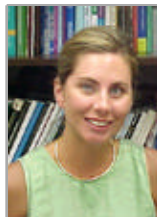
**Garthe K. Forde**, Ph.D. in Environmental Science. Mr. Forde has been offered a post-doctoral fellowship in computational biomedicine at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York.



**Edith L. McDavid**, M.S. in Communicative Disorders. She plans to work as a Speech-Language Pathologist in an Early Prevention (0-3 age group) Program.



**Marilyn Bennett-Roberts**, M.S. in Mathematics. Ms. Roberts is currently employed as a pricing analyst for Kroger Food Services. She would like to begin teaching at the junior college level.



**Shay Hauer**, M.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision. Ms. Hauer plans to pursue a principalship in a local school district.

**James Lyons, Jr.**, M.A. in Sociology with emphasis in Criminal Justice. He is currently employed by the Jackson State Campus Police. Mr. Lyons plans to pursue an executive doctoral degree in urban higher education.



**Sherrie Conley**, Master of Business in Administration. Ms. Conley recently was promoted to Procurement Administrator at Trustmark Bank. She is thankful to the University for facilitating and nurturing her academically and professionally.



**Tracey McKay**, M.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision. Ms. McKay plans to pursue a principalship in a local school district.

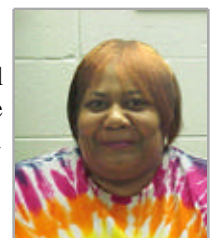


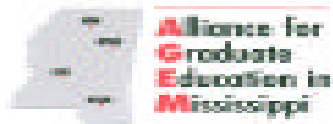
**Zebbie D. Williams**, M.A. in Sociology. With the completion of her masters' degree, focused on alcohol and drug studies, her skills in policy and procedures have increased. She is currently employed by the University Medical Center - Jackson Heart Study as a Research Recruiter. Ms. Williams is the CEO of the Genesis Assisted Living program.

**Avila Brown Steele**, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Ms. Steele has accepted a position at the University of Houston in the Counseling Center. She will provide counseling to university students.



**Mary Johnson**, M.S.Ed. in Special Education. Ms. Johnson's degree will enable her to advance further in her career in the field of special education.





AGEM Summer Institute 2003

“Enhancing Collaborative Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”



Sessions included:

Friday, May 9, 2003- Opening Ceremony

University Club, 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Dorris Robinson-Gardner, Presiding

Speaker: Dr. Joseph Martin Stevenson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Tuesday - Friday, May 13-16, 2003

Partnership Visitation- University of California at Santa Barbara.

Leadership and Team Building- Mr. Lamar Reed

Effective Time Management Practices-Dr. Mark Hardy

Tour of Core Research Laboratories - Peoples Science Building

Meet the Dean, Chairs and Program Directors

Dr. Robert Whalin, Dr. Mahmoud Manzod and Dr. P. C. Yuan

Graduate Student & Organizations- Mr. Joel Swan

Tour of the Vicksburg Military Park

Jackson Heart Study- Dr. Daniel Sarpong

Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi- Dr. Sophia Leggett

Closing Luncheon Speaker- Ms. Pamela Heard - NASA/NAFEO Louis Stokes Fellow

The Summer Institute was designed to introduce participants to the culture of being a scientist. The Institute is open to graduate and undergraduate students in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology (SMET) programs. Participants were given the opportunity to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics research. Emphasis was placed on working as a team and developing problem solving skills. The workshops employed a variety of techniques and methods.

AGEM is a comprehensive program designed to:

- enhance entry into and successful completion of underrepresented students in doctoral programs in SMET fields;
increase the number of underrepresented minorities who will pursue academic careers;
bring about a systemic change in attitudes and practices of faculty, administrators, and students with regard to minority pipeline issues.

GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



Above, (left to right): Joel Swan, Shuntina Johnson, Terrence Wright, Rebeca Reddin, Dr. Dorris R. Robinson-Gardner, Curtis Gore, Rochelle Hunter, Anthony Skipper and Preston Robinson.

“The Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi” is co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Education Program and the participating universities: Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, The University of Mississippi and University of Southern Mississippi.

**Answers to Commonly Asked Questions..**

**ADMISSION to CANDIDACY  
at the DOCTORAL LEVEL**

When eligibility has been established according to program requirements, the student should make application for advancement to candidacy. A student is eligible for candidacy when he/she has:

1. Achieved regular status
2. Earned a cumulative 3.00 GPA and the required departmental cumulative GPA
3. All incompletes ("I" grades) have been removed.
4. Completed all departmental requirements.
5. Filed Forms I and II with the approval of the Candidacy Committee in the major department.

**GRADUATE AREA COMPREHENSIVE  
EXAMINATION, (GACE)**

Each graduate student who intends to become a candidate for the doctoral degree at Jackson State University should take a written comprehensive examination in the student area of specialization after completing 80% of the graduate program with a cumulative average of "B" or better in courses completed.

**Summary of Requirements Leading  
to the Doctoral Degree**

- Admission, File Form I
- Completion of Coursework with the required GPA
- File Form II
- Meet residency requirement
- Internship (if required by program)
- Comprehensive Examinations
- Appointment of dissertation committee, file Form A {Obtain IRB approval, when appropriate}
- Apply for graduation, File Form III
- Complete and defend dissertation, file Form B
- File Form IV
- Dissertation publication
- Granting of degree

**DISSERTATIONS**

All candidates must submit a dissertation based on independent and original research and must defend it in a formal, public forum. Policies and standards for establishing a dissertation committee and for preparation and submission are outlined in "Guidelines for Preparing the Doctoral Dissertation" and are supplemented by documents from the Graduate School and individual departments. All procedures must be followed.



**National Rankings for  
Graduate Degrees Conferred  
2001-2002**

The July 3, 2003 issue of *Black Issues in Higher Education*, (2003, Volume 20, No. 10, pages 40-81) provides information on graduate degrees conferred to minorities by all degree granting institutions in the United States. The source of the data was the U.S. Department of Education. JSU ranked 20th in the nation in conferring masters' degrees and 16th for doctoral degrees.

	<u>JSU Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Masters (all disciplines).....	20	233
English Language & Letters	2	8
Biological & Life Sciences	6	7
Education	12	116
Health Science & Related Professions	18	33
Social Sciences & History	38	6
Doctoral (all disciplines).....	16	24
Education	6	18

JSU also "ranked" high in conferring degrees in several disciplines. Top ten ratings earned at the Masters' level: English, #2; and Biology, #6; and at the doctoral level: Education was #6 nationally. The Graduate School congratulates the graduate faculty and staff for their efforts in increasing the representation of minority students among holders of graduate degrees.

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**Graduate Degrees Awarded, 2002-03**

**Top Producers**

<i>Masters</i>	
Guidance and Counseling	40
Social Work	39
Public Health	28
<i>Doctoral</i>	
Educational Administration	12
Early Childhood Education	9
<i>Totals</i>	
Masters	289
Specialist in Education	28
Doctoral	<u>31</u>
Total - Graduate	348
Total - University	1108

Percent of degrees awarded at the graduate level 31.4%

Source of Data: "Fifteen Year Report of Degrees Conferred by Academic Disciplines" Office of Institutional Research.

## Graduate Student News

### Graduate Student Association 2003-2004 Tentative Schedule of Events

#### Fall 2003

- Sept. 2 Graduate Assistants Networking, 3:30 p.m.,  
Third Floor Conference Room, Campus Union
- Sept. 2 GSA Membership Drive & Social, 4:00 p.m.,  
Third Floor Conference Room, Campus Union
- September GSA "Unity Day" Time and Place: TBA
- October Speaker: Dr. John Mohr, UC-Santa Barbara  
Time and Place: TBA
- November Thanksgiving Project (providing families with  
Thanksgiving Dinner), Time and Place: TBA
- December "Toys for Tots", Time and Place: TBA

#### Spring 2004

- January 2004 AGEM Winter Scholar Symposium at the  
University of Mississippi (Oxford, MS)
- Mar. 24-28 National Black Graduate Student Association  
(NBGSA) Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH.
- April Habitat for Humanity Project

Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month  
at 4:00 p.m. The location will be announced.

For more information on these activities,  
contact GSA President, Joel Swan, at 979-2455  
or stop by the Graduate School.

### University of Southern California - Santa Barbara Summer Interns



**Terrance Wright** (doctoral student in Environmental Science, left) and **Joel Swan** (Master-level in Sociology, spent five week internship at UC-Santa Barbara. Mr. Wright's mentor was **Dr. Kathy Foltz**, Associate Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Development Biology. His internship involved developing proposals and learning techniques of protein microinjection. Mr. Swan's research topic is Incarceration, Crime, and Opportunity Structures in California Counties under the direction of **Dr. John Sutton**, Professor of Sociology and Law.

### NASA - Summer Temporary Experience Program (STEP)



**Teri Robinson** (doctoral student in Chemistry) was a STEP Intern with NASA this summer. Her research in the area of computational astrobiology involved force field studies of adenine and water complexes with **Andrew Pohorille** and **Galian Chaban** of NASA. Ms. Robinson is a student in the Lezsczynski Research Group at JSU.

## Graduate Faculty News

### Department of Biology



**Dr. Maria Begonia**, Assistant Professor of Biology, is joining the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Academy of Science. Congratulations!

### New Members of the Graduate Faculty 2002-2003

#### Computer Science

Dr. Hyonshong Chong  
Dr. Tzusheng Pei  
Dr. Xuejun Liang  
Dr. Selma Holmquist

#### Educational Leadership

Dr. Gail Snipes

#### Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Ruth Searcy

#### Public Health

Dr. Sophia Leggett

#### Sociology

Dr. CoSandra McNeal

### BANNER UPDATE

The Graduate School is participating in on-going training to develop protocols and data standards. Training sessions, (below), are held at the JSU e-Center. Graduate admissions will be using BANNER in Fall 2004 with data entry starting in October. Mock registrations using BANNER are tentatively scheduled for Spring of 2004.



For more information the JSU Banner Conversion process, contact **Dr. Idehen M. Omorigie**, Associate Vice President for Information Technology, at (601) 979-2466 or idehen.m.Omorigie@jsums.edu

# Graduate School - Fall 2003

## Student Orientation and Registration

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date, Location &amp; Time</u>
<b>Registration</b>	Aug. 13 & 14 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
<b>Orientation</b>	Aug. 19, 4:30 p.m. Administration Tower-First Floor
<b>Orientation</b>	Aug. 20, 4:30 p.m. Jackson Medical Mall- Room 245
<b>Orientation</b>	Aug. 21, 4:30 p.m. Universities Center - Rm 4-1

**Registration:** Graduate students admitted to an academic program should contact the department chair to schedule their initial advising session and registration. Students admitted as "Non-Degree" seeking students should contact the department chair for permission to enroll in graduate courses and obtain the chair's signature on the "APPROVAL FOR NON-DEGREE ENROLLMENT IN A GRADUATE COURSE" form and report to the Graduate School for registration.

**Orientation:** Graduate students are introduced to the university and the policy and procedures for successful matriculation. Additional orientation activities may be conducted by each academic program. Please contact your department for additional information. Programs are sponsored and coordinated by the Office of the Graduate School.

## Graduate English Competency Examination

**ALL MASTERS' LEVEL STUDENTS** This test is taken prior to registration or **during the first term** when the student begins work beyond the undergraduate level at Jackson State University. It is designed to show the strengths and weaknesses of each student in the areas of grammar and usage, logic, organization and content. The examination can be taken only once.

Students unsuccessful on the GECE must take and pass English 500-Advanced Laboratory Writing with a "B" or better. This requirement must be met prior to filing FORM II and applying for the Graduate Area Comprehensive Examination.

<b>Application Deadline</b>	Oct. 10, 2003 4:00 p.m.
<b>Examination Date</b>	Nov. 8, 2003 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. C. F. Moore Building.

## Graduate Area Comprehensive Examination

**Master-level:** Each graduate student who intends to become a candidate for the master's degree at Jackson State University should take a written comprehensive examination in the student area of specialization after completing 24 semester hours of graduate credit with a cumulative average of "B" or better in courses completed and met all requirements for degree candidacy.

**Specialist-level:** Each graduate student who intends to become a candidate for the specialist degree at Jackson State University should take a written comprehensive examination in the student area of specialization after completing the requirements of the graduate program with a cumulative average of "B" or better in courses completed.

**Doctoral-level:** Each graduate student who intends to become a candidate for the doctoral degree at Jackson State University should take a written comprehensive examination in the student area of specialization after completing 80% of the graduate program with a cumulative average of "B" or better in courses completed.

*No student may appear for the comprehensive examination until after he/she has been declared eligible for the examination by the Dean of the Graduate School. The student must be registered for at least one credit hour in the semester in which the examination will be taken. An audited course will not meet this requirement.*

**Application Deadline** Oct. 10, 2003  
4:00 p.m.

**Examination Date** Nov. 8, 2003  
Check with department  
for Time and location

### Other Dates

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Sept. 1, 2003	<b>Labor Day</b>
Sept. 9, 2003	<b>Graduate Council, 10:00 a.m.</b>
Oct. 14, 2003	<b>Graduate Council, 10:00 a.m.</b>
Oct. 23, 2003	<b>Founders's Day</b>
Nov. 11, 2003	<b>Graduate Council, 10:00 a.m.</b>
Nov. 24 - 29, 2003	<b>Fall Break/ Thanksgiving</b>
Dec. 8 -13, 2003	<b>Final Examinations</b>
Dec. 9, 2003	<b>Graduate Council, 10:00 a.m.</b>

## Graduate Orientation- Summer 2003

The Graduate School held Spring Orientation on June 10, 11, and 12, 2003. Orientation was conducted on the main campus, (top) the Jackson Medical Mall (bottom), and the University Center (right).



New graduate students were welcomed to Jackson State University by **Mr. Joel Swan**, President of the Graduate Student Association. **Dr. Jeffrey Zubkowski**, Associate Graduate Dean, conducted the orientation sessions.



**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**  
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*e-mail: [gadmappl@ccaix.jsums.edu](mailto:gadmappl@ccaix.jsums.edu)*



Members of the faculty in attendance included **Dr. Francis Liddell** (far left), (Public Policy and Administration). For more information on orientation and student policies and procedures, please view the Graduate School website: <http://ccaix.jsums.edu/~gadmappl>.

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### **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Dr. Dorris R. Robinson-Gardner, Dean  
Dr. Jeffrey D. Zubkowski, Associate Dean  
Mr. Curtis Gore, Coordinator, Graduate Admissions  
Ms. Sarah Foote, Coordinator, Student Services  
Ms. Frankie Adams, Secretary