Fall / Winter 2012



In This Issue

- › Interim Executive Director's Message
- Urban Studies Program Graduate's Drive to Success
- Opportunity in Shanghai, China
- > Lessons Learned from Internship
- Urban and Regional Planning Program
 Graduates

Important Phone Numbers

Division of Graduate Studies

1400 Lynch Street, First Floor of Administration Tower Office 601-979-2455 Email graduate@jsums.edu

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

BF Roberts Hall 2nd Floor - Office #232 Office 601-979-2100 Fax 601-979-3445 Toll Free 1-800-848-6817 Email admappl@jsums.edu

Financial Service Office of the Bursar

Office 601-979-2216 Fax 601-979-8644

Financial Aid

Office 601-979-2227 Fax 601-979-2227 Email finaid@jsums.edu

Moving Forward with Positive Change

Otha Burton, Jr., Ph.D.

Message: from the Interim Executive Director, School of Policy and Planning and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Public Service



Urban & Regional Planning Program / Urban Studies Program School OF POLICY & PLANNING



extend greetings to the 2012 – 2013 academic year returning and incoming students of Urban and Regional Planning graduate programs, Public Policy and Administration graduate programs, and our Urban Studies undergraduate program in the School of Policy and Planning. For over the past three years, the leadership of Jackson State University has explored restructuring options for academic units, particularly those within

the College of Public Service. Driving motivations behind this initiative were the adoptions of models for growth and "deep academic quality" that would enhance programs, research opportunities, more diversity in enrollment, and an overall expansion of the student population.

Jackson State University is designated as a Level One Research Intensive University. This very engaged vetting process has resulted in stronger and more competitive degree programs that will meet the demands of our 21st Century. Throughout all of the deliberations and options considered, the leadership of the University supported the Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs, and Program Directors,

See BURTON page 2

A New Chapter COMING 2013







faculty and administrators to ensure that the integrity of established degree programs and especially accredited programs would not be placed in jeopardy. Today, I can ensure the students, faculty, and staff in the School of Policy and Planning that all programs, accredited and established, are maintained and are supported.

Effective July 1, 2012, the Provost and the Division of Academic Affairs implemented the restructuring of the College of Public Service. The School of Policy and Planning is headed by an Executive Director. I have been asked to serve in this capacity as the Interim Executive Director. I was formally the Associate Dean of the School and Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The "department structure" in the School prior to July 1 which included the Public Policy and Administration Department (PPAD), and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP), has been eliminated. However, the five degree programs are in place and will generally operate as before, i.e., Ph.D. in Public Administration; MPPA; Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning; and BA in Urban Studies. There are no Department Chairs. The next line of administrative oversight below the Executive Director is the Program Director. There are two Program Directors appointed by me: Dr. Mukesh Kumar for Urban and Regional Planning Programs, and Dr. Johnny Gilleylen for Public Policy and Administration Programs.

While the Executive Director is the administrative leader of the School, the Program Directors and center administrators clearly have definitive duties and responsibilities to help manage their respective programs and overall direction of the School. Within the School of Policy and Planning, which encompasses two nationally accredited master degree programs, the structure is as follows:

School - Interim Executive Director, Dr. Otha Burton, Jr.

- 1) Urban and Regional Planning Programs Program Director, Dr. Mukesh Kumar
 - > Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning
 - MA Program, Urban and Regional Planning (Planning Accreditation Board accredited-PAB)
 - BA Program, Urban Studies
- 2) Public Policy and Administration Programs Program Director, Dr. Johnny Gilleylen
 - > Ph.D., Public Administration
 - MPPA, Public Policy and Administration (National Association of Public Affairs and Administration Accredited-NASPPA)
- 3) Mississippi Center for Technology Transfer Executive Director, Jill Brewer
- 4) Center for Urban Planning and Policy Assessment (vacant)

Additionally, I have also been asked to serve as the Interim Associate Dean of the College of Public Service. Change is inevitable in the life cycles of individuals and organizations. However, the moving of the landscape within the School of Policy and Planning is viewed and received as a "Positive Change" that will be beneficial to the academy and the global urban community we serve. The new structure builds upon: faculty members that are extremely talented and productive, and who are nationally recognized; our students who are impressive and are only surpassed by the alumni who are impacting society every day; the service and research centers that continue to provide transportation modules necessary for good public service delivery in the State of Mississippi, and client driven contracts that address need; and the administrators and staff who are committed to a "student's first" perspective that connects all of us here at Jackson State University: first and foremost, this is why we are here!

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APA MS UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS!



... for their representation as officers on the APA MS Executive Committee:

Bennie J. Hopkins, APAMS Central Region Representative, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Jackson, URP Alumnus

Dr. Moe Chowdhury, Chair, APAMS Membership Committee and Visiting Assistant Professor with the Urban and Regional Planning Program

Charles Husband, APAMS Student Representative and Urban and Regional Planning Program Ph.D. Student

Dr. Joan Wesley, Chair, APAMS Awards Committee and Assistant Professor with the Urban and Regional Planning Program

Also, the Urban and Regional Planning Program was well represented with faculty, graduates and students serving on the 2012 Annual APA MS Conference Committee held October 25-26th in Meridian, MS:

Dr. Moe Chowdhury, Visiting Assistant Professor URP

Mae Henry, URP Ph.D. Student

Justin Fritscher, USDA and URP Alumnus

Ann Claudette Jones, Stennis Institute of Government and URP Ph.D. Student

Dr. Joan Wesley, Assistant Professor URP





Urban and Regional Planning Program / Urban Studies

Events-at-a-Glance

- Community Forum was held in September featuring Dr. Matthew Dalbey, AICP, Director of the Federal and State Division in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities. His topic covered "Empowering Communities and Private Sector Investment with Place-Based Public Policy."
- First ever "Informational Open House" for the School of Policy and Planning" which featured faculty, staff, alumni and students from the Public Policy and Administration Program, Mississippi Center for Technology and Urban and Regional Planning Program.



Left to Right: Dr. Matthew Dalbey, Dr. Joan Wesley, and D'Angelos Svekenson

- Urban Studies Club Volunteers at Stew Pot
- > Welcome Back Event for new and current students August 17th

INCOMING STUDENTS 2012 - 2013



First Row: Jaynae Young M.A. Student, Edward Anthony M.A. Student, Shayron Nichols Ph.D. Student Second Row: Heather Wilcox Ph.D. Student, Angelique Lee Ph.D. Student, Jessica Davis Ph.D. Student. Erica Greene Ph.D. Student

Back Row: Mark Jenkins Ph.D. Student, Peter Isokpehi Ph.D. Student, Jonathan Brown Ph.D. Student, Jasmine Brown M.A. Student, Saddig Fageir Ph.D. Student

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Alternative Break Opportunity in Shanghai, China

Heather Wilcox, Ph.D. Student



The College of Lifelong Learning / Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning at Jackson State University offered an Alternative Break opportunity for university students for several weeks to study in Shanghai, China. Marlena Lehew, MSW student and Heather Wilcox who was at that time a MA student in Urban and Regional Planning and now a PhD student in our program found the "One Child Policy" was of particular interest to them both. These College of Public Service scholars were roommates during the trip and were able to conduct a thorough study of the policy as it related to their specific majors.

In 1979, the "One-Child Policy" was implemented and has been controversial ever since. Both Heather and Marlena researched the policy as it related to human rights issues and the cruel treatment of women and girls. Some of their findings reveal that experts believe a policy is necessary to control the population growth in China. This belief on the other hand could be viewed as an alternative method of prevention when compared to the reports of inhumane treatment of women and girls.

Positive Effects

- Natural resources such as freshwater, natural gas and oil are non-renewable resources and there are simply not enough natural resources for China's growing population.
- Shanghai is out performing all other countries in math and reading with a 99% literacy rate among its students.
- By 2008, the birth rate had decreased to 1.7 births per female which is estimated to have prevented 400 million births since the introduction of the policy.

Negative Effects

- Women must ensure damaging medical procedures and pay fines 10 times their family income if they have a second child.
- Girls are usually left at local orphanages or become victims of gendercide.
- Young women who are in their child-bearing years have the highest suicide rate in China.

Ultimately, the policy has lived up to its strict requirements, but at a huge cost of human suffering which has affected all aspects of the family and economic structure in China. The question of whether this policy violates human rights both students felt as if it depended on who is questioned. Some



persons may say they do not feel it violates anyone's rights due to the problem of a rapid growing population and limited resources in China. On the other hand some will agree that it does violate human rights because of the extreme measures taken to stay compliant with the "One-Child Policy."

Challenging Minds, Changing Lives.





STUDENT Cows

Urban and Regional Planning Represented at the 2012 APA MS Fall Conference

Dr. Joan M. Wesley, Assistant Professor URP Kirstin Kettley, Doctoral Student

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Planning Association held its Annual fall Conference Wednesday, October 24 through Friday, October 26, 2012 at the Mississippi State University Riley Center in Downtown Meridian. The theme for this year's conference was "Creating Sense of Place: Collaborative, Sustainable and Innovative." The conference involved a series of workshops, interactive sessions and roundtable discussions that included speakers from all of the major planning and allied disciplines, which allowed for interaction among the many players who participate in the development process to help create sense of place: Planners, landscape architects, architects, community developers and engineers.



Left: Roneda Scott, M.A. Student Right: Francine Sutton, M.A. Student

Students from Jackson State University's Urban and Regional Planning and Urban Studies Programs played key roles in the conference by assisting with organizing student sessions and displaying collaborative research through poster presentations. Roneda

Scott, Francine Sutton, D'Angelos Svenkeson and Kimberly Whalen exhibited "Where the Past Meets the Future: Sustaining Sense of Place in Doodleville, MS." The poster conveyed the work of Neighborhood Revitalization Studio students' exploration of Doodleville within the context community in transition and efforts to integrate the existing sense of place with a strategic format for potential redevelopment. They critically assessed land use, topography, infrastructure and other issues that impact revitalization initiatives. Students examined Doodleville's demographics, researched its history, documented current conditions and proposed to incorporate residents' views about community needs. The Doodleville project is directed by Dr. Joan Wesley, Assistant Professor and Ms. Ester Ainsworth, Zoning Administrator for the City of Jackson.

Challenging Minds, Changing Lives.

Tiffany Bush, Loretta Johnson, Kenneth Burnett, Porshia Evans, Danita Summers and Eric White presented "Jackson MetroCenter Mall: Sustainable and Creative Revitalization." The Urban Studies group's objective is to provide examples of the businesses and development projects that could revitalize the Metrocenter



Presenter Heather Wilcox, Ph.D. Student

and surrounding communities. Dr. Moe Chowdhury supervised the Metro Center project. Working across disciplines, Heather Wilcox and Marlena Lehew presented "An Analysis of the One-Child Policy in China."

The effort earned the collaborators the 2012 Best Student Poster Award. All student poster presenters received Certificates of Participation for poster.

Several doctoral students also attended the conference, providing support and direct assistance to student presenters. Kirstin Kettley accepted and reviewed abstracts for student posters and assisted with organizing the Student Poster Session. Mae Henry, Jonathan Brown, Erica Greene, Jessica Sharp, Shayron Nichols and Peter Isokpehi attended the conference to advance their knowledge about planning practice and develop networks with practicing planners and other professionals.

In addition to student participation, Urban and Regional Planning faculty held active roles in organizing the conference, moderating and facilitating sessions and highlighting research through poster presentations. Dr. Moe Chowdhury moderated the Box Lunch Session on Thursday afternoon. Dr. Joan Wesley organized and facilitated the Friday morning Breakfast Roundtable Discussion, which highlighted students' projects and poster presentations. As Chair of the Awards Committee, Dr. Wesley also presented several Chapter Awards to APA MS members, the Student Collaborative Project and Best Poster. Each session provided Certification Maintenance credits to planners with the AICP designation.



Left: Loretta Johnson, M.A. Student Right: Tiffany Bush, M.A. Student (Urban Studies Club President)





Campus Panel Discussion Includes Batteast



A collaborative project between The Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy, The COFO Civil Rights Educational Center and the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University to honor Civil Rights icons Medgar Evers and Ella Baker drew a packed house with standing room only. Several speakers were invited including Cassio Batteast, MA student and

Founder/Executive Director/CEO of Fathers Active in their Hoods, Inc. (FAITH) to discuss "The Outcome of Black Males in Urban Institutions: A National Catastrophe or Local Concern?"

Discussions were centered on how local communities can raise the standards of achievement in particular as it related to the disproportional decline of black males. Other panel members included: Shawana Davie, Director of Education Initiatives, United Way of the Capital Area; Dr. Johnnie Griffin, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Jackson State University; and Dr. Rodney Washington, Chair and Associate Professor, Elementary & Early Childhood, Jackson State University.

"Many African American males face numerous social and economic barriers. Drug activity, violence, and crime give them a personal experience with all the things they do not want to be in life, Cassio stated. These same barriers cause them to come into college less prepared than their peers for the rigors of college-level academic work."

GRADUATES



The Urban and Regional Planning Program is proud of the following graduates. We wish them good luck in all of their future endeavors!

MAY 2012 GRADUATES

Gary B. Cosby, Ph.D.
Deborah D. Grison, Ph.D.
Jeffery Lewis Virgil, II, Ph.D.
Jonathan Allen Brown, M.A.
Shannon Lawrence Edgerson, M.A.
Justin M. Fritscher, M.A.
Kimberly S. Grayson, M.A.
Jennifer T. Johnson, M.A.
Akili J. Kelly, M.A.
Catherine P. Lee, M.A.
Brian Randall Grove, M.A.
Justin Gann, BA, Urban Studies
Derek McCain, II, BA, Urban Studies

DECEMBER 2012 GRADUATES

Willie Davidson, M.A. Ashlei Story, M.A. D'Angelos Svekenson, M.A. Sharon Webber, M.A.

Jasmine Williams-Washington Presents at 2012 ACSP Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio

- Joan M. Wesley, Ph.D.



Jasmine Williams-Washington

doctoral candidate in Urban and Regional Planning, presented at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Williams-Washington presented "In My Backyard: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) Community

and the Revitalization of Neighborhoods throughout the United States." The presentation is related to her dissertation

research, which examines the impact of the LGBT community on gentrification. Her work was highlighted in the pre-organized session, Home Spaces, Part I. Each year, ACSP's call and papers attracts hundreds of submissions, resulting in a highly selective and competitive process. The ACSP conference was held Thursday through Sunday, November 1-4, 2012. The conference focused upon Resurgence of Planning in a New Century. The ACSP conference is held annually in select cities throughout the country. It is attended by luminaries and scholars from colleges and universities nationwide and other countries.





Lessons Learned from Internship

(Pictured Left to Right: Willie Davidson M.A. student, Lynn Kimbriel, John McClure, Kenny Watts, BJ Hatten, Dennis Sankovich, and Billy Bea)

This summer, I had the pleasure of fulfilling my internship course requirement with Meridian Main Street under the Executive Director, John McClure, Meridian Main Street, is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development and downtown revitalization in Meridian, MS. Meridian Main Street is a part of the Mississippi Main Street Association, whose approach is a community-driven, comprehensive methodology used to revitalize older, traditional business districts throughout the United States. The Main Street approach includes four points, which are Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring.

Throughout the internship, I was assigned many tasks that were directly related to the main street four point approach mentioned previously. I assisted in many economic driven programs, such as "Earth's Bounty" and "Downtown After 5 Alive". Though these are different programs, they have the same purpose of driving the economy and bringing activity to the downtown area. The humbling part that I can reflect on is

that I worked on these programs during their early planning stages and they are still in existence until this day. I assisted in developing the programs, implementing certain activities, overseeing that the programs operated efficiently. These were just a few of the tasks that I was assigned to assist with throughout the internship.

Aside from these events, Meridian Main Street has also allowed me to explore other areas of business that I inquired about. Early in the internship, I was asked about other areas in the city I would like to visit and learn about. I was given the opportunity to job shadow Steve Kraus, who works in the Public Works Department and is an AutoCAD/GIS technician in addition, to several other individuals in the City Planning Department. This internship opened my eyes to new opportunities while exploring some of my own. All in all this was a wonderful experience and I not only gained valuable work experience, but also an extended family.

Willie Davidson, M.A. Student

Student Highlight -----

Charles Husband, **Ph.D. Student**, along with several graduates of the Parents for Public Schools Leadership Institute decided to collaborate and institute a plan called "**All Eyes on Me**". It addressed traffic safety issues for the children of Jackson Public Schools. The ultimate goale is to raise community awareness surrounding the safety of our children in route to and from school.

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Dr. Gobar Researches Mortgage Lending Patterns in Tulsa and Oklahoma City



Dr. Angela Gobar Director of the Washington Addition Prenatal and Early Childhood Education Project

r. Angela M. Gobar, adjunct faculty member with the Urban and Regional Planning Program and URP Alumna recently conducted research on mortgage lending patterns in communities of color. The research study entitled, "Oklahoma Mortgage Lending Patterns: An

analysis of patterns of subprime lending, homeownership and foreclosures among people of color in Tulsa and Oklahoma City MSAs" (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) was presented during spring break a two public forums in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Her research demonstrated how between 2004-2007 homeownership rates were on the rise in the MSAs and this was the period represented by the largest volume of subprime lending nationally. An examination of foreclosure data revealed how the patterns of subprime lending correlated with the disparate effects on minority home mortgage loan borrowers. The findings clearly illustrated how such lending patterns disproportionately affected communities of color in the state of Oklahoma. Dr. Gobar has conducted previous research around asset building and wealth creation for low wealth people. Heather Wilcox, PhD student, provided additional research assistance for this project.

The forums were sponsored by the First National Development Institute's Oklahoma Asset Building Policy and Practice Initiative (OABPP). Members include: Oklahoma Policy Institute, Oklahoma Assets and the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC).

"Never Underestimate Classroom Preparation"



2012 - 2013 AmeriCorps Volunteers

Shannon Edgerson, M.A. did not hesitate when he was asked to provide an update of his current professional endeavors. Presently, he works for AmeriCorps located in Pensacola, Florida. His has been assigned to the Success Measures group for Habitat for Humanity which deals with accessing, analyzing and communicating relevant secondary data; including census, demographic and housing information. The primary area of interest centers on the

Pensacola Habitat service area because he spends a great deal of time surveying Pensacola Habit homeowners.

"Success Measures reminds me of Dr. Joan Wesley's Neighborhood Revitalization class because it prepared me to work in the real world as well as Dr. Angela Gobar's African American Community class," stated Shannon.

Some of his most recent tasks involve working on block conditions throughout Downtown Pensacola, particularly through the Westside Sunshine neighborhood. He mentioned along with Success Measures Coordinator, Peggy Fowler they

evaluate each home and/ or business in the Westside Sunshine neighborhood and access their condition. Once there are homes or businesses that need repairing, the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity plans to rehabilitate or renovate these buildings.



Shannon Edgerson

<u>Faculty Highlights</u>

Dr. Edmund Merem, Associate Professor

Associate Editor of the Environment & Climate Change section for the Journal of Scientific Research and Reports

Dr. Evandro Santos, Associate Professor

Selected as a contributing author for the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability

Dr. Otha Burton, Jr., Interim Associate Dean of the College of Public Service *and* Interim Executive Director of the School of Policy and Planning

- > Reviewer, "Community Development: Journal of Community Development Society"
- > Chair, Vision 2022 Education Committee, Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership
- > Member, Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Long Range Plan Steering Committee





Urban Studies Graduate Drive to Success

Stephanie A. Wade graduated from Jackson State University's Urban and Regional Planning Department with a bachelor's in urban studies and a minor in mathematics. She had a desire to continue her education and enrolled in the Peace Corps Master's International Program. She was selected to serve as a volunteer in Guatemala in the capacity of a Municipal Development Advisor.

She was in charge of community outreach activities at the municipal level. As a Municipal Development Advisor, she organized 12 community groups and conducted over 26 trainings to disadvantaged Guatemalan



communities on topics related to Citizen Participation, Women's Empowerment and Youth Development in their native language. "Serving as a Peace Corps volunteer was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I feel as though I have an extended family living in Guatemala. The country was beautiful and unforgettable, work was gratifying and stressful, friends were fun and encouraging, and family... one word-loving. These relationships continue to grow from the many calls and Facebook messages", she says with a smile.

Stephanie has interned for the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration for 3 years



and is currently completing an internship with JacobsenDaniels Associates, LLC, a nationally recognized minority-owned consulting firm in transportation and strategic planning with offices in New Orleans, St. Louis, Phoenix, Chicago and Detroit. Her career

goal is to become an international developer who uses creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship to promote sustainable development within disadvantaged communities.

Stephanie attributes much of her success and accomplishments to her development while attending JSU. "JSU has helped me tremendously in laying the foundation for my

advancement as a young and professional African American woman in my field. It was at JSU where I learned that anything is attainable; it's a matter of how hard you are willing to work to achieve it."



To learn more about....

Peace Corps Master's International Program - This program allows master degree seeking student to gain real work experience by applying their skills in 1 of 75 Peace Corps serving countries. Students are placed in Peace Corps programs pertaining to their field of education, and as a result, are usually awarded a reduction in course credits required for graduation.

To learn more, please visit: http://www.peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/eduben/mastersint/

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) - This program is a work-study program consistent with the candidate's field of study. The program provides an excellent avenue for the FHWA to identify and train highly motivated individuals. The student gains job training, federal employee benefits, the potential for full-time employment after graduation, and an understanding and appreciation for the work environment at the federal level. The goal of the program is to bring together classroom training with a participatory work environment to produce capable and productive employees.

To learn more, please visit: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/careers/coop_ed.htm

Jacobsen Daniels Associates, LLC Diversity Internship Program - Since 2001, the JDA Diversity Internship Program has provided exceptional learning opportunities for college students and graduates. Our interns come from many states and backgrounds including engineering, architecture, planning, consulting, psychology and many others. Several of our interns end up becoming full-time JDA employees while others take the skills they learn to other industries outside and within other areas of aviation.

To learn more, please visit: http://www.jacobsendaniels.com/careers.html

Challenging Minds, Changing Lives.

Pictures with Description

Top: Me and my 3 best friends; Melony, Genesis and Fernanda

Middle: Me and other Peace Corps Volunteers conducting a 2-day workshop on how to make jewelry from chip bags. The workshop was used to demonstrate alternate sources of income for low-income families.

Left: My 3rd family whom I spent the most of my time with and that I absolutely adore.



COMMUNITY News

IMPROVING



Dr. Kimberly Hilliard, URP Alumna





left to right - Dr. Shelia Porterfield, Assistant Dean College of Business, Dr. Evelyn Leggette, Dean Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Interim Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Otha Burton, Ir., Interim Associate Dean College of Public Service and Interim Executive Director



Dr. Matthew Dalbey, Guest Speaker for Community Forum





Challenging Minds, Changing Lives.





Dr. Burton and James Meredith



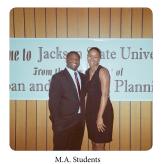
Dr. Otha Burton, Jr., Interim Associate Dean of the College of Public Service at Community Forum



M.A. Student D'Angelos Svekenson



left to right: Dr. Moe Chowdhury, Dr. Edmund Merem and Dr. Joan Wesley



M.A. Students Mitchel Lloyd and Kimberly Whalen



Dr. Burton speaking with students





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ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS (Program's Accreditation at the Mississippi Museum of Art)
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