

ACADEMIC WORK IN PROGRESS AND UPDATES /

- ✦ Graduate Student Enrollment Update
- ✦ Distance Learning Online Course Review
- ✦ Strategic Planning and Mission Review/Affirmation
- ✦ Higher Learning Commission Accreditation

MSSU STUDENT RESEARCH FAIR /

BSC Connor Ballroom on April 28, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



REASONS FOR RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION /

- ✦ For the second straight year, students from the Plaster School of Business at Missouri Southern have claimed the title in the NASBITE International Student Case Competition. The five-member team completed a 20-page analysis that involves the Ohio-based Cleveland Whiskey. The small manufacturer is seeking to expand globally, focusing on the Asian market and Singapore in particular. Papers were submitted by teams from 30 universities and then blind reviewed. The top three schools were invited to make a presentation to company representatives during the 29th annual NASBITE International Conference, held April 4-8 in Newport, Rhode Island.
- ✦ Students from Missouri Southern achieved a perfect score and tied for first place during the 21st annual Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition, held April 7-8 at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph. Team members are required to solve complex math problems during the annual competition. The MSSU team tied with a team from Washington University in St. Louis. The score is the first perfect score and the first tie for first place in the 21-year history of the competition. This year also marks the first time MSSU has ever placed among the top three winners at the event.
- ✦ KGCS students have received awards in five categories from the annual Missouri Broadcast Educators Association competition. Those awards are: Script/Documentary - Honorable Mention - "Imagine: Global Warming and the Future of the Earth" by James Walls, Video/Multi-Camera Live Event - First Place- "Southern Sports Sunday Nov. 13, 2015" by Patrick Wheeler, Hank Boulanget and the KGCS Practicum Class, Video/News Show Non-Recurring - Honorable Mention- "KGCS Campus Talk" by Alecia Henson, Austin Minor and the Fall 2015 Interview Class, Video/PSA - Honorable Mention- "Joplin Recycling Center" by Alex Bryant, and Video/Sports Package - Honorable Mention- "Division II Cross Country National Championship" by Sierra Gray.

REMINDERS /

Academic Recognition Ceremony: April 27 @ 7 PM at the Justice Center

ITS Friday: April 29 @ 3 PM at the Justice Center

At the request of the Provost, Distance Learning is reviewing all of MSSU's online courses. To accomplish this, a checklist has been developed. The checklist is designed to establish and verify a baseline of quality and flag areas of concern. The DL checklist does not assess academic content.

The evaluation is being carried out by DL staff with no disruption to ongoing course activities. In future semesters, the procedure will continue, evaluating half of all internet courses each semester, with all courses being evaluated each academic year. As time progresses, expectations identified in the checklist will become well established, and the process more efficient, possibly even superfluous.

The checklist addresses three areas:

1. Items that affect Bb storage
2. Compliance with existing DL policy
3. Observance of a small list of "best practices"

The checklist includes items that are easily checked and fixed, and can have a large and positive impact for students. These include the use of a standard set of navigation buttons, location and inclusion of important documents, information and notices, accurate due dates for assignments, regular and substantive announcements, up-to-date grading, properly functioning links and multimedia, and more.

To date, 57 evaluated courses have averaged 14 of 19 possible points. Areas of strength have included the standard locations of critical documents and information, up-to-date grading, and the provision of approved and required weekly activities, very important to Financial Aid when determining last date of attendance. Items most commonly flagged for follow-up include the use of a standard set of navigation links, the association of due dates to grade center columns (critical to the use of the Blackboard Universal Calendar), and well organized student grade centers.

Follow-up is conducted a week after the initial review. At that time, a determination is made as to the need for any further action. In most cases, thanks to prompt attention by faculty, the process is closed and the course is awarded DL's "Pride in Online

Education" quality assurance badge, prominently placed in the banner of the course.



EDUC 302
The Exceptional Child

The process is never closed until all list items have been addressed, or a plan for future compliance has been established and agreed upon.

Deans, Chairs, and the Provost, if necessary, are included in all communications related to the checklist review.

DL is excited to be part of this important quality assurance initiative. We are greatly appreciative of the Provost for her support, as well as the support, cooperation and participation of Deans, Department Chairs, and faculty.

A decorative border of black scrollwork and swirls frames the central text.

66th Commencement

Spring 2016

*The Office of the Provost cordially invites the
faculty and staff of Missouri Southern State
University to attend the 66th Commencement.*

Leggett & Platt Athletic Center

9:30 – School of Arts & Science

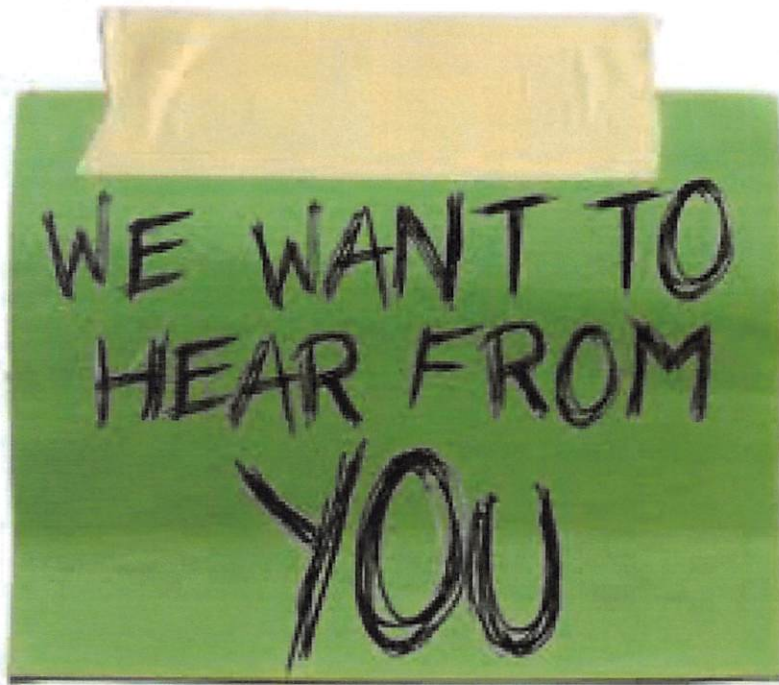
School of Health Sciences

1:00 – School of Business

School of Education

BGS and BAS

Saturday, May 14, 2016



End of Year 1

New Faculty Social

THANK YOU!!!

- (1) If you were Provost, what would you do to make this a better place for new faculty to work?
- (2) What were you most pleasantly surprised about over the past year working at MSSU and living in the Joplin area?
- (3) What were you most unpleasantly distressed about over the past year working at MSSU and living in the Joplin area?
- (4) What are some things you think we should know that you don't believe we do?
- (5) About research and scholarship.....
- (6) What is the one thing no one told you but that we should share with the new incoming faculty?

Lessons learned: Need clarification on pay computation, ongoing communication about Promotion and Tenure expectations, early advising challenges, concerns about student alerting, training needs on classroom technologies, and other important issues.



Congratulations!

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Fall 2016 Freshman cohort at Missouri Southern State University.

To celebrate this accomplishment, we invite you and your family to participate in our inaugural Academic Signing Ceremony.

Tuesday,
May 3, 2016

4 p.m.

JHS Eagle Talon Room



**MISSOURI
SOUTHERN**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

3950 E. Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801

Earth Day 2016 – Environmental Health & Safety Education Conference

(April, 13 2016)

When & Where: April 21st thru 22nd - MSSU Billingsly Student Center 2nd and 3rd Floor

Thursday April 21st Events:

Poster/Art/Product Contest for High School & Middle School student's reduce/reuse/recycle

- Prizes: \$2,500 in refurbished electronics (TV's, laptops, and tablets), grant money provided by the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council.

8:00 am - 6:00 pm: Contest entries must be set up in the Ballroom on the 3rd floor of Billingsly Student Center.

6:30 pm: Judging begins.

*Contest entries will remain on display until Friday after the winners are announced at 1:00 pm.

Friday April 22nd Events:

8:30 am – 12:00 pm: Speakers on Environmental Health and Safety Topics

- 8:30 am - Missouri Recycling Association: Patty Overman - *reduce/reuse/recycle*
- 9:00 am - City of Joplin: Mary Anne Phillips - *Joplin Recycling & Stormwater*
- 9:30 am - Jasper County Health Department: Tony Moehr/Steve McKarus - *Water Quality*
- 10:00 am - Joplin City Health Department: Dan Pekarek - *Ground Level Ozone*
- 10:30 am - Joplin City Health Department: Ryan Talken - *Zika virus*
- 11:00 am - Taney County Health Department: Laura Jahn/Craig Rhoads – *Norovirus*
- 11:30 am - FDA / U.S. Public Health Service: Tristian Strait - *Ebola outbreak and how it was handled*

8:30 am - 3:00 pm: Educational Booths by area Environmental Health & Safety Professionals

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Jasper County Health Department
- City of Joplin Health Department
- Joplin Recycling Center
- Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council

8:30 am - 3:00 pm: Interactive Educational Booths by MSSU Students

- Environmental Biology class will have booth displays on the following topics:
 - Mosquitoes, diseases spread by them (i.e. Zika virus), and sampling.
 - Sustainable Agriculture, promoting locally grown produce and the positive environmental effects.
 - Water Quality Issues and Recreational Lake Water Quality.
 - Household Hazardous Waste, the dangers, and Chemical Safety i.e. SDS sheets
- Environmental Health Club will offer a limited number (up to 12 each) of complimentary garden soil fertility testing and water testing of pool, pond, or well water.
- MSSU Biology Club will have a booth on Rain Gardens and the Migration of Monarch Butterfly with seeds packets for Butterfly Milkweed plants, and possibly a booth on Bat Species.

1:00 pm: Poster/Art/Product Contest winners announced and prizes awarded.



MISSOURI SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY™

HONORS ACADEMY

The MSSU Honors Academy provides a program of study for motivated high school students. Students can enroll in MSSU Honors courses during the summer semester to earn up to nine hours of college credits. Students can apply these credits toward a college degree and its general education requirements while also meeting high school graduation requirements. These courses will be of particular interest to any students planning to join an Honors Program while in college.

QUALIFICATIONS

Students must be rising high school Juniors or Seniors who are able to demonstrate college readiness through one of the following criteria:

- Rank in the top 20% of their current class
- High School GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale

Each student must submit a letter of recommendation written by a high school teacher who can attest to the student's intellectual capability.

DATES AND DEADLINES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday May 2, 2016

CLASSES BEGIN: Monday June 6, 2016

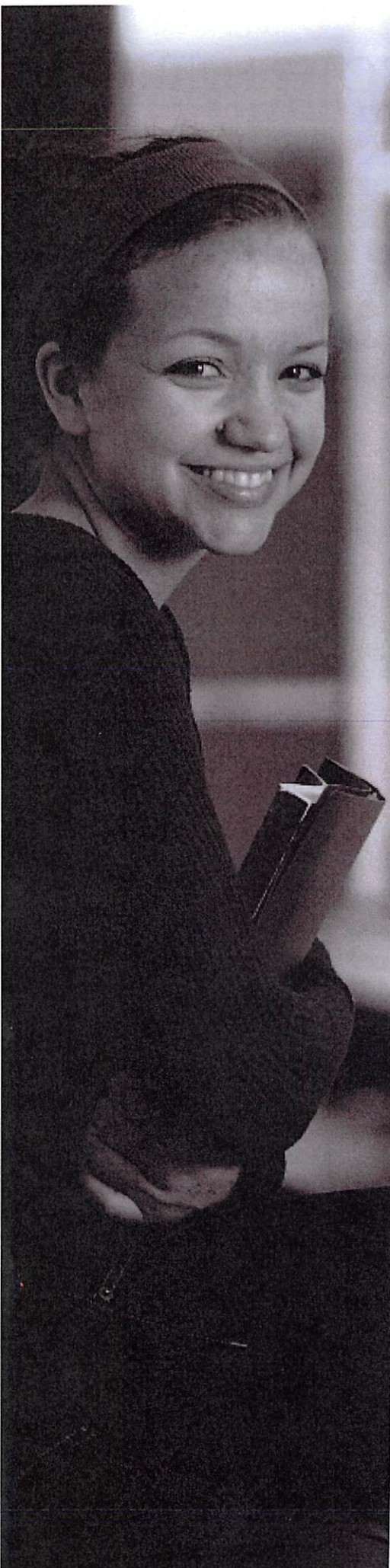
FINAL EXAMS: Thursday July 28, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Office of Academic Outreach

PHONE: 417-625-9731

EMAIL: dualcredit@mssu.edu



Each Honors course is worth three hours of college credit. Students may enroll in as many of the courses as they want. The following courses will be offered in summer 2016. Enrollment is limited to 15 students per class.

TH 110: THEATRE APPRECIATION

(M, T, W, TH) 8:30 – 9:45am

The Netflix of the ages! Come learn about theatre and why it's been going strong for thousands of years. Theatre has always been the mirror of society, so we'll look at history through the scope of the stage. We'll get into the seedy side of theatre—backhanded deals, double crosses, attempted murders, and crazed riots—while looking at the traditions of the stage, the playwright, and the actor. It'll be a whirlwind from Ancient Greece to New York City and from Tennessee Williams to Neil LaBute. Come find out why theatre really is binge-worthy!

ENG 250: INTRODUCTION TO

LITERATURE (M, T, W, TH) 10:00 – 11:15am

"Misfits and Morality: Introduction to Literature" It's been said that if you don't like reading, then you're doing it wrong. In this course we will attempt to do it right by studying various literary genres—short stories, poetry, essays, and novels—so as to gain an appreciation and understanding of the ways in which we reflect on and respond to literature. Through detailed discussion and analysis, we will examine literature focusing on a multitude of themes—change and coming of age, identity and individuality, and the consequences of discovery. Our discussions of these literary works, as well as basic technical elements like plot, character, setting, and voice, will help students to become more careful and thoughtful readers.

GEOG 211: REGIONS AND NATIONS

(M, T, W, TH) 11:30am – 12:45pm

Geography is more than a Jeopardy category. Geography is the study of Earth as home of humankind, including various world regions where people and places interact to produce particular environmental, cultural, economic, and political outcomes. Despite their noticeable differences world regions are increasingly connected. Today, globalization helps produce newfound similarities between people living in Chicago and Kamakura. Ever wonder why Bangkok may soon fall below sea level?! Ever ask yourself how Indigenous people harvest fog in Peru? Ever rack your brain figuring out where in the world is Timbuktu or where one might find a didgeridoo? Well, good, then Geography needs YOU! Join us and get one step closer to wherever in this great-big-wide world that piques your curiosity!