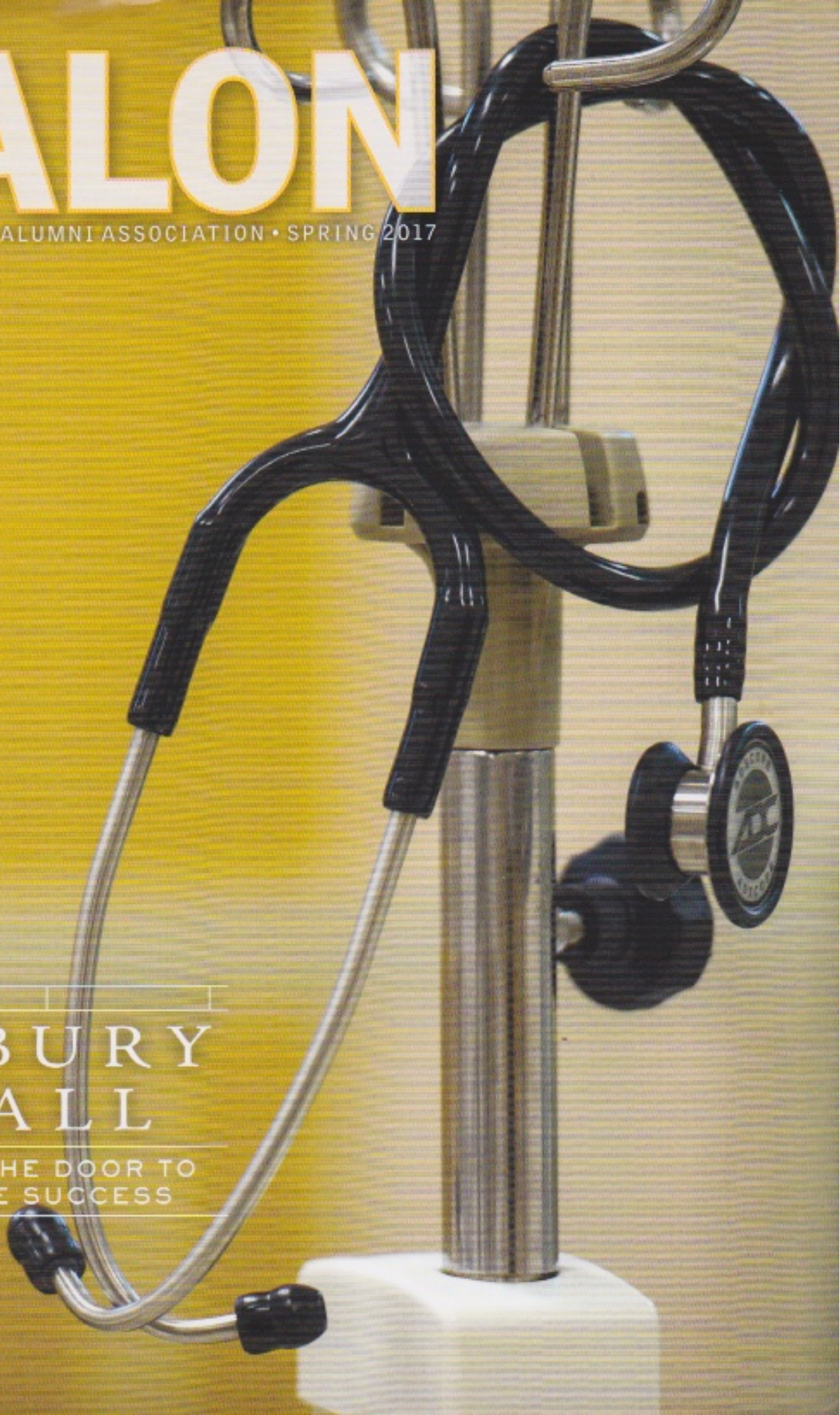


THE TALON

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2017

ASBURY HALL

OPENS THE DOOR TO
FUTURE SUCCESS





Tisack-Kathmann Named Director of USM's Mississippi Polymer Institute



Dr. Monica Tisack-Kathmann

Dr. Monica Tisack-Kathmann has been named director of the Mississippi Polymer Institute, the industrial outreach service of The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Polymers and High Performance Materials.

The Mississippi Polymer Institute (MPI) leverages resources within the School of Polymers and High Performance

Materials in order to assist high-tech polymer and polymer-related industries. From electron microscopes and thermal analysis to tensile strength testing, MPI offers access to a wide range of scientific equipment and the expertise to support both existing polymer-related industries and entrepreneurs.

Having produced thousands of prototyped parts, MPI has a customer list that includes some of the most prestigious manufacturing companies in the world.

Tisack-Kathmann is no stranger to working with big name manufacturers. Upon earning her doctorate in polymer science from Southern Miss in 1997, Tisack-Kathmann began an 18-year career with DuPont. Recently, Tisack-Kathmann was the Chemours Nafion™ North America regional business manager in Fluoroproducts. The Chemours Company is a new, publicly traded company created from the DuPont Performance Chemicals businesses.

The Mississippi Polymer Institute is located in The Garden, Southern Miss' 521-acre innovation and commercialization park, and housed in The Accelerator, a unique technology innovation center located within The Garden. The Accelerator is a 60,000-square-foot, full-service facility that provides state-of-the-art laboratories and professional support to technology-based enterprises innovating, manufacturing and testing new products.

To learn more about the Mississippi Polymer Institute, call 601.266.4607 or visit thepolymerinstitute.com.

Mississippi Arts Commission Chooses Southern Miss Dance Instructor for Esteemed Post



Julie Hammond White

Julie Hammond White, associate professor and director of dance education at The University of Southern Mississippi, was recently chosen to serve a three-year term as a teaching artist with the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). In this role, White will partner with teachers throughout the state to artfully teach academics.

Teachers from K-12 schools

will be able to select White from the MAC teaching artist roster, which consists of three other teaching artists chosen along with White. She will partner with MAC to teach K-12 students and instruct teachers on how to teach academics artfully, along with instruction of the dance elements and standards, professional development work in assessment and curriculum development, and other techniques.

The MAC application is extensive, highly competitive and consists of several review processes, including an

elected consortium of education experts who blind review all applications and determine qualified applicants. MAC is funded in part by the state and receives considerable funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. These funds enable MAC to financially support eligible arts programs and the work of individual artists in the form of grants.

White, who has been teaching dance at Southern Miss for the past 12 years, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in performance from the University of Illinois and a Master of Fine Arts in choreography, as well as Ohio licensure in K-12 dance education, from The Ohio State University. She performed professionally with BalletMet of Columbus, Ohio, and has produced work in Ohio and Illinois. White founded and directed a seventh through 12th grade program in dance at a magnet school in Ohio for 10 years.

White has also been selected as a Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education Teaching Artist for the second year, where she works with pre-K, kindergarten, first and third graders at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary in Hattiesburg. She uses dance to teach reading, storytelling, science, mindfulness and cultures from around the world.



"It's All About Electricity"
by Richard Herzog

New Sculptures Add Beauty to Campus

In October 2016, faculty and students from the Department of Art and Design helped install four new sculptures across campus. The art pieces are part of the 2016 USM Outdoor Art Exhibit sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, Partners for the Arts and the Department of Art and Design. The sculptures are the work of artists from across the country and will remain on campus through April 2018.

A committee, consisting of a student and faculty and staff members from the College of Arts and Letters, selected four pieces from 35 entries from 20 artists. The committee was looking for aesthetic pieces that people will find interesting and thought-provoking, yet durable pieces that can withstand the weather of south Mississippi.

"It's All About Electricity" by Richard Herzog is installed behind the Liberal Arts Building. Herzog, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia, currently lives in Athens, Ga.

"Delphinian," a stainless steel piece by Andrew Light sits in front of the Liberal Arts Building. Light is a full-time sculptor who has been a guest artist and lecturer at universities throughout the country. He currently maintains an active studio in Lexington, Ky. Light prefers the use of fabricated metals for his work, as they afford a high degree of plasticity and durability for his expressions. He has work currently

exhibited throughout the United States and the United Kingdom.

"Better Days" by Nathan Pierce is located in front of the International Center. Pierce, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Southeast Missouri State University, is currently featured in four solo gallery exhibitions. He is co-founder of Untitled Gallery of Contemporary Art in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Beyond the Pedestal Sculpture Park in Hunter Valley Winery. Pierce has also installed several works across the country.

Between Cook and McCain Libraries is "Appalachian Balance Beam" by artist Durant Thompson. He is an associate professor of sculpture in the Department of Art at the University of Mississippi



"Delphinian"
by Andrew Light

and was formerly an art technician at Southern Miss. The steel, wood and cast iron piece, weighing 2,500 pounds, is an interactive bench and balance beam. Thompson is a Connecticut native and grew up in Knoxville, Tenn. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University. Thompson's work has been featured at exhibitions across the region over the past decade.

The public is invited to visit campus and view these sculptures. For more information, contact the College of Arts and Letters at 601.266.4315, visit USM.edu, or like Southern Miss College of Arts and Letters on Facebook.



USM student Rebecca Crosby conducts water sampling research at Turkey Creek in Harrison County alongside EPA scientist Jerry Boas.

Opportunities Available for Students through USM, EPA Partnership

Students at The University of Southern Mississippi are seizing opportunities to participate in community-level research across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, thanks to a collaborative partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program (EPA GMP).

In August 2016, USM and EPA GMP increased their prospects for future collaborations by extending their partnership from the University's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs to the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach. To include cooperation with the Gulf Park campus, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was amended to establish terms and conditions for sharing, basing and maintaining EPA laboratory equipment in the University's Science Building, which is known as the Gulf Community Environmental Laboratory. This shared research space offers both institutions opportunities to partner and conduct research and studies on issues of concern affecting coastal communities.

Since the establishment of the lab, USM students have worked alongside EPA scientists on two different projects in the Turkey Creek and Jourdan River watersheds, gaining experience in water quality, nutrients, periphyton and E. coli monitoring. With the collected data, students learn how to relay information to local decision makers to provide solutions on problems of concern.

During these projects, students also interact with professionals and community members from entities such as the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Turkey Creek Steering Committee and the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain. According to Pierce, these interactions help students understand the significance partnerships have on the success of water quality and conservation efforts.

This year, Southern Miss and EPA GMP also plan to offer more outreach opportunities for secondary students in the Gulf Coast area to help influence the number of future students who intend to pursue degrees in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

For more information about the Southern Miss and EPA GMP partnership, contact the College of Science and Technology at the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus at 228.865.4507.