Research that Reaches Out
Faculty and Staff Newsletter - January 2019

Congratulations to Faculty Selected for 2019 Summer Student Research Program

Dr. Chester Fontenot, Professor, English and Africana Studies
Adam Griggs, Research Services Librarian and Assistant Professor
Stephanie Miranda, Research Services Librarian and Instructor
Gail Morton, Research Services Librarian and Assistant Professor
Christian Pham, Systems Librarian and Instructor
Kathryn Wright, Archivist and Instructor

This team of faculty will be working with up to two students to scale up their ongoing project to digitize historic records related to slavery in Macon-Bibb County.

Dr. Vicki Luther
Associate Professor, Education

Dr. Luther will be working with up to two students to conduct a programmatic evaluation of the Read2Succeed tutoring program in Macon-Bibb County.

Dr. Maggie Meadows
Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Dr. Meadows will work with a student to conduct research into the development of an inexpensive detection method for toxic compounds in rivers and other freshwater sources.

Dr. Laura Moody
Associate Professor, Industrial Engineering and Industrial Management

Dr. Moody will be working with up to two students to collect data on finger-push strength in adults aged fifty years and older.

Dr. Deneen Senasi
Associate Professor, English

Dr. Senasi will be working with up to two students to develop a program model that explores the value of the humanities in modern life.

Dr. Laura Simon
Assistant Professor, Sociology

Dr. Simon will be working with up to two students to evaluate Mercer’s Poverty Simulation program and conduct a study on the impact of service-learning on the attitudes and civic behavior of alumni.

Dr. Joanna Thomas
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Thomas will be working with up to two students to generate models for the testing of new stent designs that could improve treatments for autoimmune diseases.

It’s Time for the Personal and Social Responsibilities (PSRI) Inventory

Beginning January 14th, Mercer will participate in the Personal and Social Responsibilities Inventory (PSRI). This will be the second time Mercer has participated in this survey and it will include all undergraduate students and the faculty and staff who work with undergrads.

The PSRI is a campus climate survey designed to assess the perceptions of students, faculty, student affairs personnel, and academic administrators working within undergraduate programs at Mercer.

We hope that you will encourage students in your school or college to complete the survey, providing important data that all of us can use as we continue to build a challenging and supportive learning environment for our students. The QEP office will be utilizing PSRI data as we develop future faculty development activities and write our final impact report. Thank you in advance for participating!

Happy New Year from the QEP!

New year, new semester, and new assessment requests! We can *bearly* contain our enthusiasm! Thank you for all that you do in your Expose, Explore, and Express courses!

Hannah Vann will be reaching out to you in late March about making plans to share Spring 2019 student work for assessment, and you are always welcome to contact us before then with questions about your courses. Feel free to add her to your Canvas course at any time for the easiest possible assessment experience available.

Funding Updates

We are no longer accepting applications for 2018-2019 funding. Stay tuned in the coming months as we release information about funding opportunities, applications, and deadlines for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Remember! We will have funding opportunities available for semester projects, summer research, and conference travel.