

Name	Title	Brief Biography	Web Address	Headshot
Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Barrow	Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army; Director of Army Instruction; Mobile County Public School System - Junior Reserve Officer Training Program; Mobile, Alabama	<p>Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1958 and raised in Mobile, Alabama, Lieutenant Colonel Barrow graduated from Shaw High School in 1975 and the University of South Alabama in 1979. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Air Defense Artillery. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow earned a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1984. In addition, he completed a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts from Spring Hill College in 2008. He also completed a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree in 2011 from Grand Canyon University. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Armed Forces Staff College Joint and Combined Staff Officer School.</p> <p>Over the course of his career, Lieutenant Colonel Barrow's tours of duty have included command and operations assignments in various commands. His duty assignments include the 32d Army Air Defense Command in the Federal Republic of Germany, the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow retired from the Army on 1 January 2002 and immediately assumed duties as the Senior Army Instructor for the Junior ROTC program at LeFlore High School in Mobile, Alabama. After teaching in the classroom for eleven years, he was selected for his current position as the Director of Army Instruction responsible for supervising all JROTC programs in the Mobile County Public School System.</p> <p>Decorations awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Barrow include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (w/3 OLC), Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (w/4 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal (w/Service Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2 tours), NATO Medal, and Master Parachutist Badge. He is a recipient of British, Canadian, and Honduran parachute badges and was awarded the German Rocket/Missile Qualification Badge.</p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel Barrow is married to the former Cheryl K. Ellis of Daphne, Alabama. They have two daughters, Corey and Lauren.</p>	https://mcte.schoolsites.com/jrotcstem	Lt. Col. Robert F. Barrow
Dr. Kendrick Buford	Assistant Teaching Professor; Masters Program Coordinator	<p>Dr. Kendrick Buford serves as an Assistant Teaching Professor of Science Education and an informal K-12 educator. He teaches Science Curriculum, Science Methods for Middle and High School Teachers, Biology, Zoology, and Anatomy and Physiology. He also serves as the science fair coordinator for south central Mississippi, and provides workshops across the state to help students, teachers, and parents prepare for the Mississippi Science and Engineering Fair.</p> <p>He has many research interests ranging from molecular biology to increasing minority interest in science. His current research focuses on African American students' experiences in informal science learning, specifically biophobia and helping children develop confidence in exploring the world around them.</p> <p>His interests include building models, writing, and cooking. Dr. Buford believes that the scientific methods can be used in all things, including his hobbies.</p>		Dr. Kendrick Buford
Claire Clemons	Director of Education, Outreach and Student Programs	Claire Clemons holds a Master of Education Degree in Leadership and Management from the Notre Dame of University, Australia. She has taught for 9 years in Elementary Education in Australia specializing in Mathematics. In 2021, Claire was an Adjunct Instructor in the School of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi lecturing in Mathematics in the Primary and Middle Grades. She also served as a University Supervisor for education students completing their final practicums in schools across Hattiesburg, MS. Currently she serves as the Director of Education, Outreach and Student Programs in the School of Polymer Science and Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her passion is STEM Education, specifically how to help teachers provide engaging, purposeful lessons which encourage student success and motivate the younger generations to take up careers in the STEM field.		Claire Clemons
Dr. Tristan Clemons	Assistant Professor of Polymer Science	Tristan Clemons is a research scientist focused on developing polymeric materials for tissue regeneration and drug delivery applications within the School of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. In a past life he was an elite athlete, playing hockey on the international stage with the Australian Hockey team; an entrepreneur, founding and running a successful startup company in sun-smart fashion with his wife Claire; and an advocate for science outreach exciting thousands of students about the possibilities of a career in science through a number of science ambassador roles.	www.clemonslab.com	Dr. Tristan Clemons
Dr. Julie Cwikla	Professor and Director Center for STEM Education	Julie Cwikla, Ph.D. is the T.W. Bennett Distinguished Professor of Mathematics. She holds degrees in Mathematics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics, and Mathematics Education from Fairfield University, New York University, and the University of Delaware. She serves as Director of the Center for STEM Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. She was named the 2019 Ada Lovelace STEM Educator and the 2022 Post Secondary Teacher of the Year by ALACTE. Funded by the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, NASA, W.K.Kellogg Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation, and others she studies STEM teaching, learning, and development. A recipient of the National Science Foundation's "Early CAREER Award" she's directed over \$25 million in funded research programs serving children, teachers, professors, and families.	https://www.juliecwikla.com/	Dr. Julie Cwikla
Dr. Allison Downing	Assistant Teaching Professor	Dr. Downing serves as a teaching professor in science education, primarily training elementary education majors on how to teach science in their future classrooms, and serves as the state director for Mississippi Science Olympiad. She earned a Ph.D. in Science Education with an emphasis in Biology Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Downing has taught 8 th grade science, high school biology, introductory biology courses at the community college and senior college level, as well as professional education courses. She takes pride in providing the best education and the most positive classroom experience possible to all her students. As a science educator, her goal is to share science experiences with K-12 students across Mississippi through outreach such as Science Olympiad or through her students becoming teachers of science. In addition to her primary job functions, Dr. Downing has been recognized by friends and family members for her need to always learn something new in the field of science and her continual informal science teaching, whether it is solicited or not.	https://msscioy.wixsite.com/scioy	Dr. Allison Downing
Anmarie Fearing	PhD student	I am a Ph.D. student in the School of BEES studying the population genetics of sawfish. I have been a NASA MSSGC Graduate Fellow for the past three years and am working with the Center for STEM Education at USM to conduct outreach focused on genetics and marine biology.		Anmarie Fearing
Dr. Rachel Gisewhite	Assistant Professor; Doctoral Program Coordinator	Gisewhite, a native of Cortland, Ohio, earned her undergraduate degree in marine sciences from the University of South Carolina (2005) and a master's in science education from the University of Georgia (2008). She received her doctorate in science education from the University of Georgia (2012) and a master's in hydrographic science from USM (2020).		Dr. Rachel Gisewhite
Dr. Jacob Grohs	Associate Professor/Assistant Department Head, Graduate Programs	Jacob Grohs, Associate Professor of Engineering Education at Virginia Tech, holds BS and MS degrees in Engineering Mechanics and MAEd and PhD degrees in Education Curriculum and Instruction. His primary research interests focus on systems thinking, applied educational research through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and collaborative change.	https://enge.vt.edu/People/researchfaculty/jrgrohs.html	Dr. Jacob Grohs
Dr. David H. Holt	Associate Professor	Graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2002 in Geosciences: Environmental Dynamics. Taught geography at Miami University from 2003-2007. Joined USM in 2007 on the coast to teach geography. Is the coordinator for the Coastal System Dynamics BS and Geographic Information Technologies Laboratory. Dr. Holt research interest include GPR, Dendrochronology, and political geography.		Dr. David Holt
Chidumebi Idemili	Graduate Student	Chidumebi Judith Idemili studied Master of Science in Applied Mathematical Sciences with Climate Change Impacts Modelling at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. She also holds a First-Class Honours in Bachelor of Science in Education/Mathematics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Her research interest focuses on mathematical modelling of infectious diseases, climate change and generally, Epidemiology. She is particularly interested in disease modelling for the mitigation of the impacts of climate-driven disease emergence and to redesign a pathway to quell future pandemics.		Chidumebi Idemili

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Maranda Joiner	Brand Consultant, Author, and Speaker	<p>Maranda Joiner is a Jackson, MS native, brand consultant, author, and speaker who quit her job to help as many entrepreneurs as possible feel connected, seen, and heard. She is the CEO and co-founder of Succeed and Elevate, a nonprofit dedicated to helping small entrepreneurs overcome burnout. With a background of 14 years in radio at WJMI, she has consulted hundreds of business owners on branding and conducts workshops and seminars, and project management for clients. She has been a guest on numerous podcasts and written articles supporting entrepreneurs so they can feel safe, seen, and supported on their way to success. She has also consulted and served as the brand manager for talent, placing them in a position to perform at Essence, Comedy Central, and TruTV.</p> <p>She is the author of A Lot A Like, What Every Entrepreneur Should Know About Branding and Purpose. She hosted TEDx Jackson in 2019 and currently serves on the MS Museum of Art's Community Advisory Council and the American Advertising Federation of Jackson board. She aims to help as many entrepreneurs, business owners, and creatives realize their unique brand voice and change the world through their work.</p>	https://www.marandajoiner.com/	Maranda Joiner
Derek Kemp	Graduate student in Experimental Psychology	Derek is a current graduate student at The University of South Alabama studying Brain and Behavior Sciences. Previously, Derek received his undergraduate training at Illinois State University. Recent research-areas of interest have focused broadly on an intersection between health and developmental psychology, investigating how factors may influence academic achievement.		Derek Kemp
Patrick Kirby	PhD student/Graduate Research Assistant with the Center for STEM Education at the University of Southern Mississippi	Patrick has research interests in interdisciplinary STEM programming for high school students, as well as the impacts STEM experiences have on students' aspirations to pursue STEM careers. Moreover, he is interested in the design, development, and implementation of educational programs that help connect and expose high school students to STEM career opportunities. Patrick is also interested in development of mentor-mentee relationships and the impacts these relationships have on mentees' career trajectories. For his master's, Patrick researched the effects of restorative forestry management practices on plant diversity and species composition in Longleaf Pine ecotopes. Currently, he is working on the GenSea – Blue Economy Career Pathways on the Gulf of Mexico grant funded by the Hearin Foundation for the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for STEM Education in collaboration with the School of Ocean Science and Engineering, introducing students to the vast degree options and career opportunities in Mississippi's coastal corridor.		Patrick Kirby
Dr. Sarah B. Lee	Director and Professor	Dr. Sarah Lee is Director of the School of Computing Sciences & Computer Engineering at The University of Southern Mississippi. Sarah entered academia in 2011 following a 19-year career at FedEx Corporation with a passion to broaden participation in computing. She worked for 11 years at Mississippi State University, where she served as Assistant Department Head in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering before joining the USM faculty in 2020. Sarah works collaboratively with stakeholders throughout the state to provide technical talent development programs that enable an alternative pathway and equitable access to higher wage jobs. She co-founded and launched the non-profit Last Mile Education Fund organization in 2020, disrupting the traditional model of scholarships by investing in striving low-income students not based on GPA, test scores, or prior achievements. To date Last Mile has funded over 2400 grants totaling \$2.3 million to low-income tech and engineering students throughout the United States. Sarah holds a BS in Computer Information Systems from the Mississippi University for Women and a Master of Computer Science from Mississippi State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Memphis.	sarahblee.me	Dr. Sarah Lee
Dr. Kristina Mojica	Assistant Professor	Dr. Mojica is a marine microbial ecologist whose primary research focus centers around understanding how physicochemical variability influences microbial interactions and regulates biogeochemical fluxes over broad ocean scales. Her current research focuses on how environmental forcing (both natural and anthropogenic) affects the rates of microbial mortality and the division amongst different mortality pathways (i.e., viral lysis and nano/micro-zooplankton grazing) with special focus on how this impacts population dynamics and biogeochemical cycling in the ocean.	https://www.marinemicrobialecolab.com/	Dr. Kristina Mojica
Chelsey Reid, MPH	Assistant Manager of Outreach, GenSea Program	Chelsey Reid (she/her) is from Louisville, Kentucky and holds a Master in Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Behavior from the University of Kentucky. Chelsey is excited by projects that grow community capital and has worked to respond to health disparities in topical areas of harm reduction, substance use disorder, and interpersonal violence. In addition to her public health work, she has worked in higher education in career readiness, student leadership development, and in wellness. Chelsey is thrilled to be a part of the USM community. Outside of professional pursuits, Chelsey enjoys spending as much time as possible outdoors with her partner and dogs.		Chelsey Reid
Dr. Jack Shelley-Tremblay	Professor and Chair	Dr. Shelley-Tremblay is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of South Alabama. He has extensive experience teaching, mentoring, and leading research teams. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Colorado State University in 1995, and later completed a Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology at the New School for Social Research in 1998. In 2003, Dr. Shelley-Tremblay earned a PhD in Psychology from the City University of New York Graduate Center. He currently studies how attention and semantic processes influence learning, reading, and health, broadly. Dr. Shelley-Tremblay is a recipient of federal and foundation funds, including most recently an award from the NIH (NINDS) to study how to improve working memory in persons recovering from traumatic brain injury.	https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/psychology/faculty/shelley-tremblay.html	Dr. Jack Shelley-Tremblay
Tara Skelton	GenSea Program Manager	Tara Skelton serves as the GenSea Program Manager and oversees Center communications. She holds degrees in English from the University of the South (Sewanee) and education from Wake Forest University. Her early career was spent in the classroom, teaching high school English, history, and journalism. After moving to the Gulf Coast, she began working in science communications for a number of universities, research funding organizations, and government agencies involved in studying the Gulf of Mexico, spending five years as the communicator for the Sea Grant Science Outreach Team. Her combination of expertise in education, communications, and various marine science-related jobsites on the Coast helps her navigate the GenSea workforce development mission.		Tara Skelton
Dr. Maria Wallace	Assistant Professor of Science Education	Maria F. G. Wallace is an Assistant Professor of Science Education and Women & Gender Studies Program Faculty Affiliate at the University of Southern Mississippi. Earning a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with specializations in Curriculum Theory, Science Education, and a graduate minor in Women's & Gender Studies from Louisiana State University, Dr. Wallace's research and teaching aim to deterritorialize beginning (science) teachers' subjectivities and practice. Drawing on conventional qualitative research methods and post-qualitative modes of inquiry, Dr. Wallace's works at the nexus of informal and formal science education to (re)imagine ways science teachers are "known," named, and re/produced.	www.mariafgwallace.com	Dr. Maria Wallace