THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
Vice Provost for Graduate Programs, Karen D. Weddle-West, Ph.D.

The Graduate School of The University of Memphis is the center of advanced study and research within the University. The basic objectives of The Graduate School are: (a) to preserve and disseminate knowledge now available in the humanities, the sciences, and the various professional areas represented by the departmental graduate faculties; (b) to extend knowledge through basic research; and (c) to prepare men and women to assume a more responsible and useful role in society.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Christopher M. Barnes – Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership  
BSEd, 2000, Arkansas State University  
MSEd, 2003, Arkansas State University  
Dissertation: “Bullying Behavior: Perspectives of Implementation of Policy from Building Level Administrators and School Counselors”  
Major Professor: Dr. Sally S. Blake

Devon Carson – Department of Leadership  
BS, 1996, Appalachian State University  
MS, 1999, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
EdS, 1999, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Major Professor: Dr. Larry McNeal

Richard C. Casey – Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership  
BBA, 2000, The University of Mississippi  
MAT, 2006, University of West Alabama  
Dissertation: “A Phenomenological Study of High School Students’ Perceptions of English”  
Major Professor: Dr. Jeffrey M. Byford

Colton D. Cockrum – Department of Leadership  
BSBA, 2001, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma  
MS, 2005, The University of Memphis  
Dissertation: “File-sharing Among College Students: Moral and Legal Implications”  
Major Professor: Dr. Patricicia J. Murrell

Aarek W. Farmer – Department of Leadership  
BS, 2003, Freed-Hardeman University  
MA, 2006, Freed-Hardeman University  
Dissertation: “The Perception of Teachers and Principals on Leaders’ Behavior Informed by Thirteen Core Competencies and Its Relationship to Teacher Motivation”  
Major Professor: Dr. Reginald L. Green

Julie H. Forbess – Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership  
BA, 1991, The University of Tennessee at Martin  
MAT, 1997, The University of Memphis  
Dissertation: “Improving Reading Comprehension Through Prior Knowledge Acquisition via Digital Game Based Learning”  
Major Professor: Dr. Michael M. Grant

Rhonda H. Harrington – Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership  
BSEd, 1983, Arkansas State University  
MSEd, 1997, Arkansas State University  
Major Professor: Dr. Satomi I. Taylor

Tishsha Tanay Hopson – Department of Leadership  
BSEd, 2000, The University of Memphis  
MS, 2006, The University of Memphis  
Dissertation: “Parental Involvement: A Qualitative Case Study of Parent Involvement in Two Rural Mid-South Middle Schools”  
Major Professor: Dr. Larry McNeal
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (Continued)

Tanisha L. Hunter-Heaston – Department of Leadership
BS, 2002, Mississippi State University
MEd, 2005, The University of Mississippi
EdS, 2006, The University of Mississippi
Dissertation: “The Voices of Four Principals: An Exploration of the
Four Dimensions of Leadership as Used by Middle
School Leaders in Transforming Low Performing
Schools into Schools That Meet and/or Exceed Local,
State, and National Standards”
Major Professor: Dr. Reginald L. Green

Antonio D. Jenkins – Department of Leadership
BSGS, 2002, Delta State University
MSEd, 2004, Alcorn State University
Dissertation: “On Line: The Pledging Experiences of Members of
Black Greek-Lettered Organizations from 1970 to
1990”
Major Professor: Dr. Katrina A. Meyer

Fawna A. Lovelace – Department of Instruction and Curriculum
Leadership
BSEd, 2001, The University of Memphis
MS, 2003, The University of Memphis
Dissertation: “An Examination of Early Literacy in an Early
Childhood Classroom”
Major Professor: Dr. Satomi I. Taylor

Mary Jo Palmer – Department of Instruction and Curriculum
Leadership
BA, 1977, Berea College
MS, 1992, Nova Southeastern University
Dissertation: “Investigating Parents’ of Immigrant Origins
Perceptions, Expectations, and Experiences with
American Educational Communities”
Major Professor: Dr. Sally S. Blake

Mark T. Zimmerman – Department of Instruction and Curriculum
Leadership
AA, 1997, Santa Fe Community College
BS, 1999, Excelsior College
DC, 2001, Life University
Dissertation: “Examination of Locus of Control, Health Locus of
Control, and Their Key Predictors in Urban vs. Rural
Populations”
Major Professor: Dr. Deborah Lowther

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Ping-Ying Cheng – Department of Economics
BA, 1998, National Taiwan Normal University
MA, 2003, Ohio University
MA, 2006, The University of Memphis
of the ICSS Algorithm”
Major Professor: Dr. Julia A. Heath

Robert D. Evans, Jr. – Department of Marketing and Supply Chain
Management
BGS, 1996, Western Kentucky University
MBA, 1999, Murray State University
Liquidity and Risk”
Co-Major Professors: Dr. George Deitz and
Dr. Daniel L. Sherrell

Leslie Hunt Fitch – Department of Biomedical Engineering
BSE, 2002, The University of Memphis
MS, 2004, University of Memphis
Dissertation: “Hyperaldosteronism-Induced Cardiac Remodeling:
Role in Arrhythmogenesis”
Major Professor: Dr. Amy de Jongh Curry

Katherine R. Hiestand – Department of Counseling, Educational
Psychology and Research
BS, 1995, Rhodes College
MS, 2004, The University of Memphis
Dissertation: “The Role of Butch Identity in a Model of Self-Esteem
Among Sexual Minority Women”
Major Professor: Dr. Sharon G. Horne
Michael Kenneth Holt – Department of Management  
BS, 1983, Union University  
MS, 1983, Louisiana State University  
Major Professor: Dr. Robert R. Taylor

Christopher L. Howell – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
BSEE, 2005, The University of Memphis  
MS, 2007, The University of Memphis  
Dissertation: “Visual Task Performance Assessment Using Measures of Complementary and Redundant Information within Fused Imagery”  
Major Professor: Dr. Carl E. Halford

Louis M. Rocconi – Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research  
BS, 2005, Delta State University  
MS, 2007, The University of Memphis  
Major Professor: Dr. Corinna A. Ethington