



SECU™ Quarterly

The Academic Initiative of the SEC

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Mississippi State to Host First SEC Academic Conference

Mississippi State University will be the first Southeastern Conference institution to host a new academic event focused on SEC research collaboration.

To be held in Starkville March 27-28, the 2017 SEC Academic Conference is entitled *The Future of Water: Regional Collaboration on Shared Climate, Coastlines, and Watersheds*.

"We are looking forward to working with Mississippi State University on this first SEC Academic Conference," said Greg Sankey, SEC Commissioner. "We know the faculty and administrators in Starkville will provide a challenging and thoughtful program on



the critically important issue of water conservation."

MSU administrators organizing the conference said increased climate variability and water demand are bringing water is-

ues to the forefront. Drought, declines in aquifers used for irrigation, and sea-level rise are among core topics of interest.

The conference is designed to stimulate communication and collaboration toward sustainable and resilient water resource management in the Southeast, with overarching themes to include shared inland waters and aquifers, coastlines, climate and

regional policy.

The SEC Academic Conference represents an expanded slate of programming currently supported by the Southeastern Conference. [Click to read the full story.](#)

Student Musicians to Perform During SEC Football Championship Weekend



SEC student jazz musicians perform at the 2015 SEC Symposium.

SEC student jazz musicians will comprise a special music ensemble scheduled to perform at two events during the 2016 SEC Football Championship weekend in Atlanta.

The group will provide entertainment on Friday evening at the annual SEC Legends Dinner and on Saturday at the SEC Pre-game Hospitality Party.

"The SEC student music ensemble is an amazing opportunity to artistically connect with our SEC universities, instructors and musicians," said Scott Wilson, Associate Professor of Jazz at the University of Florida and the ensemble director.

Students chosen to perform in the music ensemble were selected by their universities, and have demonstrated award-winning competence in a range of music genres. [Click to read the full story.](#)

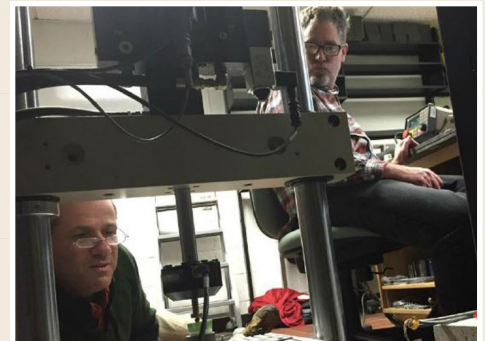
Faculty Travel Participants Announced

More than 100 faculty members from all 14 Southeastern Conference universities will take part in the 2016-17 SEC Faculty Travel Program. In its fifth year, the program provides support for selected individuals to collaborate with colleagues at other SEC member institutions.

Through the program, the Southeastern Conference provides financial assistance for its faculty members to travel to other conference universities to exchange ideas, develop grant proposals, conduct research and deliver lectures or performances.

"The SEC Faculty Travel Program allowed us to sit down for a week in person, as opposed to conference calls or Skype, and discuss project priorities and craft a compelling application," said Dr. Daniel Schwartz, Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University and former participant.

Program participants from each SEC university will travel throughout the academic year, and disciplines represented include history, physics, agriculture, and economics, among others. [Click to read the full story.](#)



Dr. Peter Ungar (Arkansas) works with David Daegling (Florida) during a 2015 visit.



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