Foman & Nita Musselwhite Prizes
Awarded at the
Mississippi College Graduate Research Forum
(Prizes Established in 2011-2012 by Jeannie M. Lane, Ph.D.)

The Foman & Nita Musselwhite Prizes were established to enhance the long-running Mississippi College Graduate Research Forum. The cash prizes are as follows: First Prize: $100.00; Second Prize: $75.00; and Third Prize: $50.00. A selected panel will score the presentations. The prizes will be awarded to the three presenters with the highest total points. In case of a tie, the chair of the academic research committee will decide the winner(s). Prize checks will be available a few days after the forum.

Foman and Nita Musselwhite graduated from Mississippi College in January of 1937. The Musselwhites enjoyed long and successful teaching careers in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The couple spent most of their careers teaching Science, English and Spanish at East Tallahatchie High School (now known as Charleston High School) and Charleston Middle School (Formerly Alan Carver High School).

Foman was a celebrated football coach who led the East Tallahatchie Warriors to an undefeated season in 1950. He also was known for the unique football plays created used to baffle their opponents. Nita was best known for the “Preposition Song” she shared with her 8th grade English students set to the tune of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” She also drilled her Spanish students in conjugating verbs in all tenses. The Musselwhites enjoyed a quiet life on a farm near Oakland, MS while Foman was living. After Foman’s death, Nita stayed in Oakland, proper, until she died. The Musselwhites had no children of their own so the students they taught became their children “in spirit.” Long-term relationships developed over their years as educators and the residents of the county established a scholarship in their honor for students attending Northwest Community College in Senatobia, MS. This award honors their long term commitment to educating children in the sciences and the humanities in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

Both Foman and Nita Musselwhite taught Jeannie Lane’s mother, Mary Pollan Lane, in the 1950’s. In the 1970’s the Musselwhites taught three of Mary Lane’s four children: Mari Jo Lane Williamson, Jeannie M. Lane, and Raymond D. Lane.
Recipients of the Musselwhite Prizes

2012 Prize Winners
1st Mariel Mohns, Biological Sciences, “DDE to Diabetes: The Metabolic Implications of Organochlorine Pesticide Exposure”
2nd Kathleen Grigsby, Ed.D., Educational Leadership, “Does Teacher Certification Affect Reading Achievement of Elementary Students in an Urban School District?”

2013 Prize Winners
1st Paige M Rogers, Law, “The Ministerial Exception: An Extension of Church Autonomy or the Creation of Endorsed Discrimination?”
3rd Simon Babba, Communication, “QR Codes and Their Effectiveness on Advertising and Marketing”

2014 Prize Winners
1st Bilal Qizilbash, Biological Sciences, “Killing Cancer Naturally”
2nd Katherine Saucier, Communication, “Visual Rhetoric & Compassion Fatigue”
3rd James Derek Walker, Art, “Analyzing Robert Beasley’s Clarendon through the Production of Wood and Digital Type”

2015 Prize Winners
1st Sarah Thurmon, Biological Sciences, “Discovering Genetic Defects in Class II Temperature Sensitive Mutants of Frog Virus 3, Defective in Late Gene Transcription”
3rd Jeri M. Flinn, Art, “Pastel: Medium to Expression”