We are pleased to present to you the first-ever College of Health annual report. This report offers a snapshot of selected happenings in the College over the past fiscal year and will give you an overall picture of the state of the College.

Despite painful and protracted budgetary challenges, academic year 2010-11 was very good for the College. In the metrics that matter most – enrollment, faculty publications, externally funded projects, gifts and scholarships – the College was "up" across the board over the previous year.

As always, educational program excellence was the guiding norm, underscored by accreditation reaffirmations in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Medical Technology and Human Performance and Recreation.

We began several new and exciting initiatives. Online master’s programs in Medical Technology and Sport Coaching Education highlighted curriculum innovation and outreach to new student markets. Social Work and Speech and Hearing Sciences teamed up to launch new Medicaid-funded clinical services. Plans for a new, state-of-the-art School of Nursing building neared finalization. The DuBard School for Language Disorders readied itself for a 50th anniversary capital campaign – a top-10 university fundraising priority. In addition, the College hosted the first-ever Mississippi Health Summit, promoting partnership and collaboration among the state’s health leaders, researchers and advocates.

For these reasons and more, College visibility soared, powered by new e-newsletters, redesigned websites, reinvigorated alumni groups and a supportive Dean’s Council.

Looking forward, adequate resourcing remains our top challenge. Appropriate physical space is in short supply for all seven of our departments and schools. Faculty numbers must grow substantially to match enrollment increases. Low salaries for both faculty and staff pose a critical challenge to recruiting and retaining the most productive members of the College family.

The challenges are daunting, but the College of Health’s commitment to excellence remains unequivocal. We will sustain our outstanding levels of student service, research and scholarship, and community engagement. It is how we make our mark. It is who we are.

We look forward to a new year of continued growth and success. Please enjoy this annual report, and thank you for your partnership with the Southern Miss College of Health.

Southern Miss to the Top!

Dr. Michael Forster
Dean
THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH LEADERSHIP

1. Dr. Michael Forster
   Dean

2. Dr. Katherine Nugent
   Associate Dean, Director of the School of Nursing

3. Dr. Paty Anderson
   Associate Dean, Director of the School of Allied Health Professions

4. Dr. Emmanuel Abu
   Interim Chair - Department of Community Health Sciences

5. Dr. Steven Cloud
   Chair - Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

6. Dr. Rick Green
   Director - School of Human Performance and Recreation

7. Dr. Mary Lou
   Chair - Department of Medical Technology

8. Dr. Tim Rimens
   Director - School of Social Work

9. Dr. Kathy Yudnick
   Chair - Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

DEAN’S OFFICE STAFF

1. Robin Bessent
   Administrative Assistant

2. Dr. Susan Hubble-Burchell
   Assistant to the Dean for Curriculum and Program Development

3. Lisa Cassi
   Assistant to the Dean for Academic Advisement and Records

4. Diane S. Coleman
   Assistant to the Dean for Recruitment and Special Projects

5. Jennifer Dowsley
   Director of Research Support

6. Ryan Kelly
   Director of Support Services

7. Gina McCarty
   Director of External Relations

8. Dr. Tim Rehner
   Chair - Department of Social Work

9. Dr. Kathy Yudnick
   Chair - Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

COLLEGE OF HEALTH DEAN’S COUNCIL

The following individuals are members of the College’s esteemed Dean’s Council, which supports the college with advising, advocacy, networking, membership and program giving.

1. Dr. Will Baker
   Baker and Graham Dental

2. Dr. Susan Hubble-Burchell
   DuBard School for Language Disorders

3. Dr. Dave Seeds
   DuBard School for Language Disorders

4. Dr. Emmanuel Abu
   Interim Chair - Department of Community Health Sciences

5. Dr. Steve Cloud
   Chair - Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

6. Dr. Rick Green
   Director - School of Human Performance and Recreation

7. Dr. Mary Lou
   Chair - Department of Medical Technology

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   Director - School of Social Work

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   Chair - Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

Centers and Institutes

Dundall School of Language Disorders
   Associate Dean - Dr. Maureen Martin

Family Network Partnership
   Director - Lauren Roper

South Mississippi Area Health Education Center
   Director - Stacey Curry

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

Interim Director - Dr. Cindy Bivins

Director - Stacey Curry

Communication and Development

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

Director - Stacey Curry

South Mississippi Area Health Education Center

Coordinator – Dr. Susan Hubble-Burchell

Speech-Language-Audiology Clinic

Pathology Director - Lynn Burnham

Audiology Director - Virginia Berry

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Summer 2010 Enrollment

Fall 2010 Enrollment

Spring 2011 Enrollment

By the Numbers

FALL 2010 ENROLLMENT

Spring 2011

Degrees Awarded

Undergraduate: 524
Graduate: 213
Doctoral: 13

Centers and Institutes

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

DuBard School for Language Disorders

Total: 2,194

Nursing: 550

Summer 2010

Fall 2010

Spring 2011

Enrollment

Total: 5,000

Compared to FY ’10

Spring 2011: 3,169 (+4.2%)

Fall 2010: 3,459 (+5.0%)

Summer 2010: 1,689 (+2.6%)

Compared to FY ’10

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Summer 2010: 1,689 (+2.6%)
The following is a snapshot of funds donated in support of the College of Health and all academic programs.

### FINANCES

The following is a snapshot of the College of Health’s budget and expense accounts.

#### Hattiesburg Campus

**FY 11** | **Compared to FY 10**
--- | ---
Salaries | $7,396,154 | +23.6%
Wages | $399,640 | -1.1%
Fringe Benefits | $2,116,632 | +21.8%
Travel | $77,293 | -24.9%
Contractual Services | $167,302 | +61.0%
Commodities | $156,972 | -21.1%
Fringes Benefits | $2,116,632 | +21.8%
Wages | $89,440 | +11.2%
Salaries | $7,396,154 | +23.6%

#### Sandi Brushaber

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**School of Human Performance and Recreation** | 19
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**School of Nursing** | 61
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**Department of Community Health Sciences** | 8
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**Faculty Production**

- Papers and Presentations

#### Equipment

- $0

#### Commodities

- $13,215

#### Contractual Services

- $12,044

#### Travel

- $21,589

#### Fringe Benefits

- $300,640

#### Wages

- $2,495

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#### School of Nutrition and Food Systems

- $584,731

#### Department of Medical Technology

- $10,800

#### Department of Community Health Sciences

- $1,992,073

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#### SCHOLARSHIPS

The following are recipients of scholarships in the College of Health over the previous year.

1. **AMANDA LYNN ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**
   - Amanda Lynn

2. **BARBARA FAILE SOCIAL WORK ENDOWMENT**
   - Barbara Faile

3. **BERNADETTE A. PARISH SCHOLARSHIP**
   - Bernadette Parish

4. **BETSY K. THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP**
   - Betsy Thomas

5. **BRIANNE M. KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP**
   - Brianne Kennedy

6. **CHERYL GOODWIN MEMORIAL MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**
   - Cheryl Goodwin

7. **COACH JILL TERRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**
   - Jill Terry

8. **COLOMBIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND ENDOWMENT**
   - Colombia

9. **COLEGE OF HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR RESOLUTION FUND**
   - College of Health

10. **DAY/ Where Scholarship**
    - Where

11. **D.C. JERI SCHOLARSHIP**
    - D.C. Jeri

12. **DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
    - Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences Endowment

13. **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
    - Department of Medical Technology Endowment

14. **DORES MILLER ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**
    - Dores Miller

15. **DORES MILLER ENDOWED NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**
    - Dores Miller

16. **DR. DONALD E. DORE MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
    - Donald Dore

17. **ETOILE DUBARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
    - Etouille Dubard

18. **PEARL ROGERS HESSON SCHOLARSHIP**
    - Pearl Hesson

19. **PATTY M. DEAN SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**
    - Patty Dean

20. **ROGER BERNERGA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**
    - Roger Benerger

21. **RUTH ANNE BRODIE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**
    - RuthAnne Brodie

22. **SARA CAWDELL GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK ENDOWMENT**
    - Sara Cawdell

23. **THE JERONI LIMITS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**
    - Jeroni Limits

24. **LOUISE M. HAWKINS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
    - Louise Hawkins

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

### EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

- Grants Submitted: 67
- Grants Awarded: 56

#### Agency Awards

- Department of Community Health Sciences: $1,992,073
- Department of Nutrition and Food Systems: $584,731
- Department of Medical Technology: $10,800
- School of Nursing: $3,193,560
- School of Human Performance and Recreation: $662,978
- School of Social Work: $1,511,452
- Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences: $4,412,481

#### Faculty Production Papers and Presentations

- Department of Community Health Sciences: 16
- Department of Nutrition and Food Systems: 23
- Department of Medical Technology: 12
- School of Nursing: 61
- School of Human Performance and Recreation: 19
- School of Social Work: 14
- Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences: 17

#### FUNDRAISING

The following is a snapshot of funds donated in support of the College of Health and all academic programs.

- **2011 Total Cash**: $422,373.91
- **2011 Total Pledges**: $122,000
- **2011 Total Year**: $544,373.91

- **2011 Compared to 2010**: +17.6%

- **2010 Total Year**: $544,373.91 +17.6%
- **2010 Total Cash**: $422,373.91

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**SCHOOLS**

- School of Human Performance and Recreation
- School of Nursing
- Department of Community Health Sciences
- Department of Medical Technology
- School of Nursing
- School of Human Performance and Recreation
- School of Social Work
- Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

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    - Jeroni Limits

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    - Louise Hawkins
Mississippi is able to celebrate a major academic achievement in 2011, a Harry S. Truman Scholarship recipient. University of Southern Mississippi junior speech-language pathology major Marie Holowach received the 2011 Truman Scholarship, making her the first in her academic discipline to ever receive the award.

Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health, describes the Truman Scholarship as “an outlet where applicants genuinely want to change the world. They do not merely want to drive their own lives, but rather want to drive society to be a better place.”

A Madison, Miss., native, Holowach not only majors in speech pathology and studies autism spectrum disorders, but she herself is autistic and has experienced the effects of the condition firsthand in her own life. Although only facing minor effects on the spectrum of autism, Holowach recounts many instances where teachers did not understand why she was defiant in school.

When asked about her ability to overcome this obstacle, she quickly stated that her parents, Dr. and Mrs. James Holowach, played a vital role in getting her the therapy and medication that she needed. “My parents were a major reason for my success. They worked very hard to put me in a position to overcome the effects of autism and integrate back into school.”

Citing her transition back into public school as the most difficult thing to overcome, she refused to let autism hold her back. Holowach decided that she would not only fight her own battles, but help others fight theirs as well. To do this, she founded Daniel’s Voice Candies, a nonprofit organization named for her cousin who also is affected by autism, to raise money for the state organization TEAAM - Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi. Not only does Holowach support TEAAM financially through her nonprofit, but she also founded a chapter of the organization at Southern Miss to raise awareness of autism on campus.

Holowach has a vision for the future and wants to make a difference in the lives of others. So far, she has succeeded. In fact, she has done so while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Southern Miss. Holowach is one of 60 Truman Scholars in the nation, a Presidential Scholar at Southern Miss, a National Merit Finalist, and a member of the Southern Miss Honors College.

During the application process for the Truman Scholarship, Holowach was required to write a policy proposal. Due to her previous experiences in middle school, she decided to title the proposal “Autism Bullying Prevention,” which proposes an elementary school curriculum to teach about autism with hope of reducing the bullying of autistic children. The application process was rigorous and difficult, but Holowach credits Robyn Curtis, national scholarship officer in the Honors College, and Dr. Steve Cloud, chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, for their hard work in preparing her for the challenge. “There were many parts to the application process, but (Curtis and Cloud) helped me with the application and to prepare for the interview,” stated Holowach.

Now a senior at Southern Miss, Marie Holowach must decide where she plans to use her $30,000 graduate school tuition award, which is included with the scholarship. She is looking for graduate school options that will help her to specialize in autism spectrum disorders.

The Truman Scholarship is named for Harry Truman, the 33rd president of the United States. President Gerald Ford signed an Act of Congress on January 4, 1975, which authorized the Truman Foundation to “award scholarships to persons who demonstrate outstanding potential and who plan to pursue a career in public service,” and to conduct a nationwide competition to select Truman scholars.

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing has been selected to participate in a landmark national study that will examine the use of simulation in nursing education.

Southern Miss is one of 10 schools nationwide chosen for the study, which is being conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). Dr. Kathy Masters, associate director of the School of Nursing, points out that the purpose of the study is to examine the effects of simulated clinical experiences when integrated throughout the pre-licensure nursing curriculum and substituted for clinical hours.

“While simulation experiences are already an important component of the clinical nursing education of students enrolled in the School of Nursing, participation in the study will obviously benefit the School of Nursing through the faculty development opportunities related to simulation that participation in this study will provide,” said Masters.

“The benefits to students will include participation in carefully designed simulation and debriefing experiences, as well as the provision of some testing and resource materials at no cost while involved in the study.”

Faculty members who teach clinical courses in the undergraduate program will receive training and be involved in implementation of the study. “The School of Nursing, located within the College of Health at Southern Miss, will receive $300,000 in grant funding for the two-year study.”

“This grant award is the latest in a long line of indications that we have one of the most innovative and resourceful of nursing programs — not merely in the state of Mississippi, but in the nation,” said Dr. Mike Forster, dean of the College of Health at Southern Miss.

Masters notes that the study will be using evidence-based practices to conduct the simulation experiences, debriefing sessions and evaluation of student performance. Students enrolled in the study will be those admitted to the baccalaureate nursing program on the Hattiesburg campus in the fall semester 2011. They will be randomly assigned into three groups in order to determine if there are differences in clinical competency among graduating nursing students with 10 percent, 25 percent or 10 percent of traditional clinical hours substituted with simulation experiences. The new nurse graduates will be followed into their first year of practice.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to participate in a national, landmark study that has a potential for future regulation in nursing practice and education,” said Dr. Katherine Nugent, director of the School of Nursing at Southern Miss. “Participation in the study will benefit the faculty and students as we will receive the use of a comprehensive simulation curriculum for core clinical courses, extensive faculty training and development in student performance evaluation, and presentation and authorship opportunities.”
Some freshmen are prepared to confidently plunge into university life; others cautiously test the water with a toe. Jennie Thomas took the plunge.

A head full of red ringlets frame her face, freckled face. A charming smile, a bubbling personality and sweet Southern manners add to the mix. Thomas’ leadership resulted in a marked increase in student participation, progression in solidifying the identity of the program on the campus and remains the only such degree option in the state of Mississippi.

The Southern Miss EMPH is uniquely positioned to provide tomorrow’s health care leaders for Mississippi and the Gulf South region. “As the state’s only executive health services administration program, the EMPH at Southern Miss is uniquely positioned to serve the health care system is affecting our communities.”

Ashley Atherton, EMPH program manager. “And these are people trained in health care, management and public health was the combination of studies that best fit the career and development needs I was looking for,” said Whyte. “According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care industry will generate 3.2 million jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry in the country. And our graduates are being prepared to assume management and leadership positions in this growth industry.”

Although a majority of the EMPH students reside in Mississippi, the program also includes students/graduates living and working in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas and the District of Columbia.

As the state’s only executive health services administration program, the EMPH at Southern Miss is uniquely positioned to provide convenient, comprehensive training for career in upper management.

“The EMPH staff encourages students for their classes, delivers books and course materials directly to each student, cares during on-campus course weekends – in short, handles virtually all course-related issues for our students,” said Atherton. Why the trial treatment? “So that the student can focus their energy on the coursework,” Atherton noted.

“Keep in mind that not your typical college graduate. Students. The average EMPH student has 14 years professional health care experience. One of five already owned advanced degrees in such areas as business, medicine and nursing; the program features registered nurses, social workers, administrators and members of the U.S. military. Marchand noted that the 22-month program provided immediate flexibility to his hectic day-to-day schedule.

“I was attracted to the program by the balance of the curriculum. Health care, management and public health was the combination of studies that best fit the career and development needs I was looking for,” said Whyte. “According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care industry will generate 3.2 million jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry in the country. And our graduates are being prepared to assume management and leadership positions in this growth industry.”

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As the state’s only executive health services administration program, the EMPH at Southern Miss is uniquely positioned to provide convenient, comprehensive training for career in upper management.
Improved collaboration could well be the best possible cure for Mississippi’s health woes.

Such was the consensus of those assembled for the first Mississippi Health Summit held on April 29, at the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship on The University of Southern Mississippi’s Hattiesburg campus.

Hosted and co-sponsored by the Southern Miss College of Health, the summit attracted more than 160 of the state’s top health care leaders to engage in discussions about upgrading Mississippi’s health.

Three panels (workforce, research and economic development) addressed possible ways to improve the state’s current health status, and all speakers concluded that working together represents the best way to use Mississippi’s resources.

“We all know Mississippi’s big problem, obesity, is driving an epidemic of diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis and stroke among others in our state,” said keynote speaker Dr. Rick deShazo of the University of Mississippi Medical Center and host of Mississippi Public Radio’s Southern Remedy broadcast. “This will be our first generation that lives a shorter and lower quality of life than their parents. I think Mississippi’s biggest problem is who will lead us out of this quagmire.”

To ensure that the important conversation does not end with the summit, a full video of the summit and a report of the event’s collaboration sessions was compiled and made available to all interested Mississippians via a dedicated page on the College of Health’s website.

Also serving as co-sponsors of the health summit were The University of Mississippi Medical Center, Forrest General Hospital, the Mississippi Hospital Association and the Mississippi Public Health Association.

When asked by students at the Dubard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi what he enjoyed most about his job, freshman U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo answered, “Helping people.”

Palazzo, a Republican representing the Fourth District of Mississippi, was elected to his first term in Congress last November. A Southern Miss alumnus, Palazzo paid his initial visit to the Dubard School and The Children’s Center for Communication and Development on Tuesday, March 22.

“The speech therapists, graduate assistants and volunteers at both of these facilities are doing a wonderful job teaching these children, and it’s been a privilege for me to see some of their efforts up close,” said Palazzo. “And it’s easy to see that the students are very interested and responsive to the teaching methods being used.”

Palazzo, a Gulfport, Miss., native, earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from Southern Miss in 1994 and returned to obtain a master’s degree from his alma mater in 1996. Since that time he has built a highly successful CPA firm, Palazzo & Co., while also serving in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

A diehard supporter of all things black and gold, Palazzo insists that he will be a strong advocate for the best interests of Southern Miss as he navigates the tricky politics of Washington, D.C.

“I’m a big proponent of reducing the amount of federal spending that’s taking place in our government,” said Palazzo. “At the same time, I know that programs such as the Dubard School and Children’s Center rely on federal dollars to remain strong and stable. I’ll do everything I can to see that they, along with other Southern Miss programs, receive all the support Congress can provide.”
With a gift of $100,000 to The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, South Mississippi Home Health Foundation Inc. has established an annual scholarship in the School of Nursing in honor of Dr. Frederick E. Tatum of Hattiesburg.

The Frederick E. Tatum, M.D. Annual Nursing Scholarship will be awarded to nursing students with a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with preference given to students interested in home health care and community health. The first five recipients of the scholarship received money at the beginning of the fall 2010 semester.

Founded in 1987 by South Mississippi Home Health Inc. (formerly Deaconess Homecare and Deaconess Hospice), South Mississippi Home Health Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization funded by donations from Deaconess employees in Mississippi and from investment income. The foundation is directed by Mary Stainton, president, and Elaine Temple, secretary/treasurer, both of Hattiesburg. Fellow board member and vice president of professional services for Deaconess Homecare, Penny Lovin, also played an instrumental role in establishing the scholarship in honor of Tatum.

“Homecare is primarily delivered by registered nurses in the communities. The board members of South Mississippi Home Health Foundation were seeking a mechanism to honor Dr. Tatum and also to benefit nursing and homecare,” said Stainton. “The board is excited and pleased to work with Southern Miss on the establishment of this scholarship.”

Brittany Lewis, a senior nursing major from Meridian, Miss., is one of the first to receive the annual nursing scholarship. “I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship. Not only will it help me financially, but it will also help me to further my education,” said Lovin. “Dr. Tatum is a great role model for the health care community.” Upon graduation, Lewis plans to become a nurse anesthetist or continue on to a School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Tatum also played a significant role in the success of South Mississippi Home Health Inc. as it became one of the largest homecare companies in the state and region and was recognized nationally for its many contributions in the field of homecare.

“Dr. Tatum has, and will always be, a champion for students entering the health care delivery system. He is a man who is dedicated to the learning process and has a strong desire for everyone to keep learning,” said Stainton.

Lewis echoed Tatum’s sentiments of gratitude: “As a native of Hattiesburg, I have always been a supporter of South Miss, and I am overwhelmed with the honor of a scholarship established in my name. I believe strongly in the value of education, and know this scholarship will help provide the gift of education to many students.”

Through their gift, South Mississippi Home Health Foundation hopes to benefit current nursing students in need of financial assistance who might otherwise not have the financial resources to stay in school. They also look to make an impact on Southern Miss by potentially keeping these students enrolled in the university and creating a vision for others to give to the School of Nursing.

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Brittany Lewis, a senior nursing major from Meridian, Miss., is one of the first to receive the annual nursing scholarship. “I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship. Not only will it help me financially, but it will also help me to further my education,” said Lovin. “Dr. Tatum is a great role model for the health care community.” Upon graduation, Lewis plans to become a nurse anesthetist or continue on to a School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Tatum also played a significant role in the success of South Mississippi Home Health Inc. as it became one of the largest homecare companies in the state and region and was recognized nationally for its many contributions in the field of homecare.

“Dr. Tatum has, and will always be, a champion for students entering the health care delivery system. He is a man who is dedicated to the learning process and has a strong desire for everyone to keep learning,” said Stainton.

Lewis echoed Tatum’s sentiments of gratitude: “As a native of Hattiesburg, I have always been a supporter of South Miss, and I am overwhelmed with the honor of a scholarship established in my name. I believe strongly in the value of education, and know this scholarship will help provide the gift of education to many students.”

Through their gift, South Mississippi Home Health Foundation hopes to benefit current nursing students in need of financial assistance who might otherwise not have the financial resources to stay in school. They also look to make an impact on Southern Miss by potentially keeping these students enrolled in the university and creating a vision for others to give to the School of Nursing.
JENNIFER COFER ’95, ’09
Jennifer Cofer, MPH, is the vice president of public policy for the American Lung Association of the Plateau-Gulf Region. She obtained two degrees from Southern Miss: a Bachelor of Science in health administration in 1999 and a Master of Science in public health in 2000. Jennifer has spent the majority of her professional career working to prevent smoke- and tobacco-related diseases through prevention and smoke-free campaigns. She has successfully assisted with multiple smoke-free city campaigns and has helped to train youth to become advocates for positive change in their communities.

REBECCA TURNER ’07, ’09
Rebecca Turner, MS, RD, LD, serves as obesity prevention coordinator for the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. She obtained two degrees from Southern Miss: a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and food systems in 2007 and a Master of Science in nutrition and food systems in 2009. Rebecca works to develop and implement age-appropriate nutrition and physical activity education in school, after-school and faith-based settings. Jennifer is also the founder of Runners’ FUEL, and has performed research regarding runner’s hydration in high-intensity races.

GREG GARDNER ’95
Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC, is the associate director of the School of Nursing, Athletic Training and Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla. Greg earned a Bachelor of Science in physical education from the University of Wyoming in 1984, a Master of Science in exercise science from the University of Arizona in 1985, and a Doctor of Education in human performance from Southern Miss in 1995. He has served on multiple commissions and committees relating to athletic training, including as president of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

LILLIE WILLIS ’98
Lilla Willis, MPH, CHES, is the health initiatives representative for the American Cancer Society’s Mid-South Division. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from South Carolina State University in 1973 and a Master of Science in public health from Southern Miss in 1978. Lilla has more than 12 years of experience with the American Cancer Society, where she works with volunteers to implement prevention and detection services. She has a great deal of experience in community outreach and has served on numerous community coalitions and boards, including those that work to obtain smoke-free cities and communities.

ELLIOTT R. HILL ’92
Elliott Hill, LCSW, BCD, BCETS, is a senior associate for disaster mental health with the American Red Cross. Elliott obtained a Bachelor of Science in social work from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1990 and a Master of Science in social work from Southern Miss in 1992. He has served as a consultant for the Louisiana Office of Addictive Disorders and founded E. Hill and Associates, LLC in 2006 to assist his community with behavioral health consulting.

JEANNE CARR ’72, ’75, ’95
Jeanne Carr, PhD, ASCP, BCILD, is the technical director of molecular microbiology and virology at St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She obtained three degrees from Southern Miss: a Bachelor of Science in medical technology in 1973 and a Master of Science in microbiology in 1979, and a doctorate in molecular biology in 1995. Jeanne has previously worked for William Beaumont Hospital, Cytometry Associates Inc. and Thomas E. Puckett Laboratory, with a variety of leadership positions obtained therein.

BRAD BARLOW ’06, ’08
Brad Barlow, MS, RD, is the child nutrition administrator for Bay St. Louis – Waveland School District on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He obtained two degrees from Southern Miss: a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and food systems in 2006 and a Master of Science in nutrition and dietetics in 2008. Brad is the founder of Mind, Body, Spirit Foundation Inc. and has received multiple grants for fitness and nutrition support from public and private agencies. Brad maintains a large amount of professional and community involvement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following were recognized at the 2011 College of Health Awards of Excellence and Retirement Reception on April 14, 2011.

Dr. Cynthia Weaver, School of Social Work
Emerging Scholar Award

Dr. Elaine Malaison, Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Distinguished Researcher Award

Dr. Kathy Yadrick, Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Outstanding Faculty Service Award

Dr. Rowena Elliott, School of Nursing
Distinguished Master Award

Dr. Ashley Artherton, Department of Community Health Sciences
Outstanding Professional Staff Award

Sabrina Bryant, Department of Medical Technology
Distinguished Teaching Award

Martha Reacy, Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Spirit Award

Dr. Karen Adker, School of Social Work
Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award

Karen Zynda, Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Distinguished Office Professional Award

Dr. Laura Downey, Department of Community Health Sciences
E.D. Kenna St. Award

RETIRES

Dr. Margaret Burren-Brinegar
Director, The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

Susan Graham-Kreps
Instructor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr. June Hudson
Chair and Professor, Department of Medical Technology

Dr. Karen Landy
Professor, School of Nursing

Dr. Ray Scalford
Professor, School of Social Work

Dr. Henry Teller
Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

PASSENGES

Dr. Lailah Stouy, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, received the Nurse Researcher of the Year honor during the Mississippi Nurses Association’s annual Nightingale Awards ceremony in March 2011.

Dr. Kathy Yadrick, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems, received the Distinguished Professor of the Year award at the Southern Miss Founders’ Day Celebration in March 2011.

Dr. Chuckara Anderson-Lewis received tenure in the 2010-11 academic year and was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences.

Dr. Mary Jane Butts was promoted to professor in the School of Nursing in the 2010-11 academic year.

Dr. Karen Landy, School of Nursing, and Dr. Ray Scalford, School of Social Work, received the honor of professor emeritus upon retirement, due to their hard work and dedication to their professions and continued desire to provide academic support.

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The College of Health has taken part in more than $12 million in external research. The research that takes place in the College is largely application-based and is designed to make a large impact for the long-term benefit of the citizens of the region.

Although all of the research in the College of Health is important, several research studies are of particular interest and are helping the College to make a mark with applied research in the Gulf South.

**HUB CITY STEPS**
A community-engaged research intervention, referred to as HUB City Steps, promotes physical activity and healthy food choices, especially focusing on the African-American community in Hattiesburg, Miss. This project builds on the wisdom, experience and energy of formal and informal community leaders, combined with the research expertise of faculty and staff in the Departments of Nutrition and Food Systems, Community Health Sciences, Psychology and Human Performance. HUB City Steps took place in three phases, beginning with a six-month active intervention, in which participants' steps increased almost 300% to an average of more than 10,000 per day, and in turn lowered their blood pressure and waist circumferences. HUB City Steps has trained more than 90 community members to promote good health and fitness in their churches, neighborhoods and other organizations, and these individuals have reached more than 200 others thus far through health outreach events. Southern Miss faculty and staff with HUB City Steps include Drs. Kathy Yadrick, Carol Connell, Alicia Sample, Elaine Molaison, Michael Madison, Charkara Anderson-Levin, Mike Webster, Vickie Reed, Mary Beard and Latessa Minor.

**ONLINE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**
The School of Nursing will take part in research thanks to Dr. Sheila Davis’ nearly $250,000 grant to prepare nurses for modern health care through distance learning technology. The purpose of this project is to redesign the Southern Miss Master of Science in Nursing program to incorporate the use of new technologies, including distance learning methodologies, in order to provide a more accessible educational program. This resulted in the development of a fully online format for graduate nursing education, and helped to create a more ethnically and culturally diverse nursing workforce. This online structure is also expected to meet the need for increased enrollment in the MSN program, therefore helping to better meet workforce needs in the state of Mississippi.

**BP OIL DISASTER STUDY**
Led by the School of Social Work, more than $160,000 was allocated to Drs. Tim Rehner and Tom Osowski for a study focusing on the adaptation and resiliency of Mississippi coastal county residents after the BP oil disaster. This study focused on the vulnerable populations affected by the oil spill and discovered the mediating factors that contributed to the successful adaptation and resiliency of Mississippi Gulf Coast residents to the disaster.

**EARLY ORAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM**
The University of Southern Mississippi’s Early Oral Intervention program is one of only three graduate programs nationally, and the only one in the Southeast, offering a program of training, research and study to develop highly qualified professionals to work with infants and young children with hearing loss. More than $200,000 has been granted to Drs. Henry Teller and Christina Perigoe to fund the small, master’s-level program. The goal of the program is to increase its graduation rate in order to meet the needs of this profession in the region.

**HUMAN PERFORMANCE - WEIGHT LOSS STUDY**
Dr. Geoffrey Hudson received more than $40,000 to conduct a weight loss study in the School of Human Performance and Recreation. This research is a 16-week intervention investigating the effects of a dietary supplement (pomegranate seed oil and brown seaweed extract) on weight loss in an obese population. The study is also examining the supplement’s effects on body fat percentage, metabolism, blood pressure and various obesity-related blood markers. Some of the specific blood markers being examined are changes in cholesterol, blood sugar, insulin and liver enzymes.