Alumni Spotlight

Gregg Gibbs, MBA/MPH, is currently the Clinic Director for Covington County Hospital. He recently transitioned from this same role at South Central Regional Medical Center. As Clinic Director, Gregg is responsible for operating five clinics owned by Covington County Hospital that provide primary care treatment to nearly 30,000 patients annually. Since accepting his new position, he has begun implementing a new electronic health record and is nearing completion on construction of a new clinic in Seminary, MS.

While at Southern Miss, Gregg received his BSBA in Accounting before earning his MBA and MPH in 2010 while being dual-enrolled. Gregg is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Healthcare Financial Management Association and Medical Group Management Association.

Gregg is married to the former Day Williamson of Laurel. They have two daughters, Daylee and Annie.

Dean’s Blog:
Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.

By Dr. Tim Rehner

Most news since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster of 2010 has focused on the medical and economic settlements. During this time, a substantial but much smaller program, the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program (GRHOP) has been quietly moving forward on improving the health and resilience of communities affected by the oil spill.

The GRHOP was developed jointly by BP and the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee as part of the Deepwater Horizon Medical Benefits Class Action Settlement. The GRHOP is different from the larger medical settlement because it is designed primarily to improve the health of communities rather than provide benefits to individuals. The GRHOP’s target beneficiaries are residents, especially the uninsured and medically underserved, of 17 specified coastal counties and parishes in Alabama (Mobile, Baldwin), Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, Bay), Louisiana (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Cameron) and Mississippi (Hancock, Harrison, Jackson).

The program focuses on primary care, mental and behavioral health, environmental health literacy, training community health workers, and empowering community organizations.

In Mississippi, the mental health effort is called the Mississippi – Integrated Health and Disaster Program (MIHDP). The MIHDP is part of the School of Social Work at The University of Southern Mississippi. The focus of the MIHDP has been to extend and strengthen the capacity of the Coastal Family Health Center, a health care provider in Biloxi, Miss., to serve the needs of its patients.

By Hanna Knowles

Southern Miss Nutrition Students Create New Food Products

Sarsuma barbeque sauce, sesame catfish and okra mole.

What do these diverse foods have in common? They are all a result of Southern Miss nutrition majors mixing their creativity, knowledge and local ingredients.

Students in the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems at Southern Miss have developed and produced new food products integrating local ingredients. On April 14, juniors enrolled in Experimental Foods opened the doors of their food laboratory to the campus and Hattiesburg community for its second annual Nutrition and Food Systems Expo held at The University of Southern Mississippi. More than 100 guests taste tested and evaluated the new food products.

“I already know I really like cooking and being creative in the kitchen, but I didn’t know how satisfying it would be to see people enjoying my food,” said junior nutrition major Lydia Nickens. “Also, there are many yummy foods produced in Mississippi that I haven’t explored in my cooking, but now I certainly plan to.”
The Sunrise Rotary Club of Hattiesburg presented the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi with a check for $4,600 on Tuesday, June 1. The club recently hosted a 5K run/walk and chose to give the proceeds to DuBard School.

Southern Miss Students Help Individuals in Recovery

By Hanna Knowles

The Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) and the Southern Students About Service (SSAS) at Southern Miss are dedicated to helping individuals in recovery.

“We are a student organization whose mission is to assist in the community in any way that we can,” said Charlie Osborne, a master of social work student and intern at the Southern Miss Counseling Center. “We are composed of people in recovery or those who support the process of recovery.”

Osborne and other students and faculty lead narcotics anonymous (NA) and alcoholics anonymous (AA) meetings every week. The meetings are open to the campus and Hattiesburg community. AA meetings are held on Tuesdays at noon and NA meetings will be held on Sundays at 1 p.m. SSAS meetings will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 2 p.m.

The recovery groups currently meet in R.C. Cook Union, room 210 on the Hattiesburg campus. However, because of increasing membership and activities, CRC/SSAS has a new home at 3602 Azalea Drive.

“The new location will allow us to continue our current meetings, have more meetings, and increase the accessibility,” said Osborne. “We also plan to start eating disorder meetings.”

Southern Miss College of Health Honors Exceptional Students

By Hanna Knowles

The College of Health at The University of Southern Mississippi recognized exceptional students during its annual awards night Tuesday, April 14 at the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus.

Southern Miss Grad Students Get Real Life Experience at DuBard School

By Catherine Lott

One of the best ways to learn is through experience. For university students, getting real-life experience alongside classroom education is a win-win combination. That’s exactly what four graduate students at The University of Southern Mississippi are getting at the DuBard School for Language Disorders.

Emily Murray from Mandeville, LA, Olivia Ryals from Columbia, MS, Sheridan McClendon from Greenville, MS and Christi Carrier from Niceville, FL are currently working on their master’s degree in speech-language pathology at Southern Miss and work part time at the DuBard School as graduate assistants.

As graduate assistants, their work covers a wide range of tasks, but always falls in line with what they’ll be doing in the professional world. They serve as assistants in classrooms and therapy rooms, work on classroom preparation, write lesson plans, assist with research projects, and work one-on-one with students – all of this in just a day’s work.

This array of work has proven quite beneficial to the graduate students. “What you learn in the classroom really starts to make sense once you see it in person,” said Murray.