College of Health Newsletter

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Southern Miss Instructor is Ironman Triathlete

By Hanna Knowles

Setting goals is one thing, but relentlessly pursuing and achieving them is another.

Susan Dobson, undergraduate coordinator and instructor in the Department of Public Health at The University of Southern Mississippi, proved hard work pays off in September when she completed her first Ironman triathlon in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“For me, competing in an Ironman was a natural progression after having competed in triathlons for the last few years,” said Dobson. “I never considered competing in an Ironman until after competing in a 70.3 event (half Ironman) the year before in New Orleans.”

Dobson said she was not an athlete growing up and only started regularly exercising after having her second child. “I just wanted to get in shape and have more energy,” she said. “I started running in 2007. I had never run before.

“At that time, I did not know how to swim at all. I had never swam and was somewhat afraid of water. I started taking swimming lessons in 2008. My first lesson was how to hold my breath under water.”

When she realized she could possibly compete in an Ironman, she couldn’t pass on the opportunity.

Southern Miss School of Social Work Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Hanna Knowles

The Southern Miss School of Social Work hosted its annual Fall Colloquium Friday, Nov. 14 at the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus. This year’s event, “The USM School of Social Work Story,” celebrated the school’s 40-year history.

Speakers addressed the school’s formation, the early years, the current status, and visions for the future. Through these talks, a clear theme evolved – the School of Social Work’s success is rooted in strong, consistent leadership matched with enthusiasm from students, faculty and staff. Individuals who participated in the program expressed commitment to their community and overwhelming passion for their profession.

Alumni Spotlight

Janice Sandefur, ACSW, LCSW (Social Work, ’88) has served as Executive Director of NASW, MS since 1999. She has served on the NASW, MS Chapter Board of Directors as Secretary and International Committee member and Chairperson. She maintains her LCSW license in Mississippi, where she has worked in inpatient and outpatient mental health and managed programs for family crisis and trauma assessment/treatment of children and adolescents. Her career has spanned a range of social work practice including adoption services, foster care, geriatric services, and administration and advocacy. Sandefur has presented workshops on cultural diversity issues in Mississippi at the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Conferences in Dublin, Ireland in 1997 and in Adelaide, Australia in 2004. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member at local colleges and on numerous boards and advisory councils.
SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB
OF HATTIESBURG MAKES $4,600 DONTATION TO DUBARD SCHOOL

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.

Music Program at DuBard School Benefits Elementary, University Students

By Catherine Lott

For six years, graduate students and professors at The University of Southern Mississippi have worked hand-in-hand with the staff at DuBard School for Language Disorders to bring music education to students with language disorders.

However, this partnership means more than just teaching students about music, it provides life-changing experiences for university students and creates a unique connection among university departments.

Students Land Jobs through Service Learning Class Experience

By Hanna Knowles

Two students from Southern Miss have been hired by Edwards Street Fellowship Center, a Hattiesburg non-profit, as a result of a service learning course.

In Community Health, a service learning class led by instructor Vickie Reed in the College of Health’s Department of Public Health, students were introduced to community health practices, professional standards, policy and functioning of health agencies. Ronnie Richardson and Samantha Wells, students enrolled in the course last spring, were hired by Edwards Street Fellowship Center (ESFC) thanks to hands-on experience and their own commitment to service.

Sport Management Club Tours FSU Athletic Facilities

By Hanna Knowles

The University of Southern Mississippi Sport Management Club traveled to Tallahassee, Fla. to visit Florida State University’s athletic facilities, Nov. 20-22. Dr. Allen Brown, instructor of sport management and Dr. Doug Manning, assistant professor of sport management, accompanied the students.