Southern Miss Professor Appointed to Governor’s Task Force

Dr. Tamara Hurst, assistant professor in The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Social Work, has been appointed to Gov. Phil Bryant’s task force on human trafficking. The task force was created in December 2014 and is facilitated by the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security. Hurst’s current role is to educate other members about opportunities, challenges and research related to trafficking. She has also been asked to chair a subcommittee responsible for reviewing call center practices and reporting protocols.

“The number of risk factors known to increase vulnerability to human trafficking are rampant in this state,” said Hurst, a licensed clinical social worker and forensic interviewer. “For example, research indicates that one out of three children in Mississippi has experienced two or more adverse childhood events such as abuse or neglect. These experiences can increase the chances of youth falling prey to manipulation by exploiters.”

Hurst listed other contributing factors, such as poverty, a lack of legal economic opportunities, entry into the foster care system, exposure to transient populations, and caregiver dysfunction such as domestic violence and substance abuse.

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Dean Forster to Present at Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health and professor of social work at The University of Southern Mississippi, will be a guest speaker at the 79th annual Mississippi Academy of Sciences Meeting. Forster will present “Public Health-Related Implications of Climate Change” Thursday, Feb.26 at 10:30 a.m. in the Thad Cochran Center. His presentation is part of the population health symposium, titled “Improving Health Outcomes in Mississippi” held from 8:45 a.m. - noon.

“As the reality of climate disruption sinks in, prudence compels us to consider at least three aspects of a darkening health picture - recognizing known and projected health risks, planning to mitigate specific health impacts where possible, and acting to prevent a catastrophic spiral downward for the human species itself,” said Forster.

Other symposium speakers include Mary Currier, State Health Officer for the Mississippi State Department of Health and Kristi Henderson, Chief Telehealth and Innovation Officer at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion.

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Alumni Spotlight

Lynn Necaise, MS, MT (ASCP) is currently the Director of Quality Resources at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis, Miss. She is responsible for ensuring the quality of patient care and developing performance improvement plans to enhance patient safety. Her duties also include coordinating federal and state regulatory activities. Necaise earned a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from The University of Mississippi in 1993. After graduating, she went to work for the Louisiana State Public Health Department tuberculosis laboratory. In 2000 she received her master’s degree in medical technology from The University of Southern Mississippi.

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Dean’s Blog:

Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.
Faculty Member Receives Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award

By: Hanna Knowles

Dr. Bill Holcomb, associate professor and director of the Athletic Training Program at The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Human Performance and Recreation has been selected to receive a 2015 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA). Holcomb will receive his award in June at the NATA annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

"I am very pleased to be recognized as a most distinguished athletic trainer and honored to be in the company of many huge figures in the association who have served the NATA for more than 20 years,” said Holcomb, a Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) certified Athletic Training Program Director. “I would like to thank former Southern Miss Athletic Training Program Director and NATA Hall of Fame member, Jim Gallaspy for serving as my advocate for this award."

This national award recognizes NATA members for their contributions and dedication to the association and athletic training profession.

Children’s Center at Southern Miss, Newk’s Eatery in 4th Year of Partnership

Food, friendship and enthusiasm for a great cause are the bedrock of the partnership born in 2011 between Newk’s Cafe and The Children’s Center for Communication at Development at Southern Miss. Newk’s, and general manager David Cullop, a Children’s Center alumni dad, has turned the third Thursdays of each month at his Newk’s restaurant into “Third Thursday for The Children’s Center.”

Since September 2011, Cullop has given The Children’s Center a percentage of his gross sales between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Cullop noted that his son is a “graduate” of The Children's Center and is now a thriving first-grader. "I am so appreciative of what The Children’s Center did for my son and for what they do for every child they serve.”