Southern Miss Staff Members Receive Public Relations Awards

Multiple staff members at The University of Southern Mississippi have received recognition for their work in the field of public relations from the Pine Belt Chapter of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi. Hanna Knowles in the College of Health received the President’s Choice Award and the Burlian O’Neal Walker Professional Promise Award. The President’s Choice is given to a PRAM board member who is selected by the current board president based on their dedication to the advancement of the organization, and willingness to go above and beyond. The Burlian O’Neal Walker Professional Promise Award recognizes a young or new practitioner who shows a future of success in the field of public relations. Knowles also received an Award of Excellence in Writing for a news release.

Catherine Lott of the DuBard School for Language Disorders received a Spark Award and Judges’ Choice Award for the annual event, DuBard School Speakeasy. Spark Awards were given to entrants who received the highest scores given by a panel of judges. The Judges’ Choice award is given to only one submission across all categories and was selected based on overall program development.

Social Work Graduate Students to Host Ballroom Dance at Alden Pointe

University of Southern Mississippi graduate students Ann Rodio and Alexandria Camp will serve as hosts of a special Pre-Valentine’s Day Ballroom Dance for residents of Alden Pointe Assisted Living & Memory Care from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Rodio, a native of Durham, N.C., and Camp, a native of Greenville, Ill., are both graduate students in the School of Social Work at Southern Miss. As part of their graduate research, Rodio and Camp are trying to determine if ballroom dancing can help older adults to retrospectively develop a sense of meaning and fulfillment from their lives as physical limitations associated with aging occur.

The event will consist of at least one ballroom dance session led by a professional instructor. Participants will be bashed to complete a survey before and after the dance session.

Alumni Spotlight

Hank M. Bounds, PhD has served as commissioner of higher education for the Mississippi Institute of Higher Learning since 2009. On January 12, 2015, Dr. Bounds was chosen to be the University of Nebraska’s next president. As commissioner, he provides leadership for Mississippi’s university system by managing the human, financial and physical resources.

Dr. Bounds is accredited with a number of initiatives aimed at improving educational achievement and raising the visibility of Mississippi’s university system. Dr. Bounds earned a bachelor’s in both sport administration (now sport management) and secondary education and a master’s in educational administration from Southern Miss. He earned his PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi.
The University of Southern Mississippi recognizes professor Dr. John Muma for his recent publication of two textbooks, *Language Acquisition* and *Best Practices*, that address the current theories of language acquisition and the evidence behind the new field of communication sciences and disorders.

*Language Acquisition* is a thorough overview of current literature in the field, and outlines three major theories that help explain the major gaps in the language acquisition literature. With a focus on identifying and resolving major issues in the field, the text will provide students with the history of language acquisition, the difference between communication and language acquisition, and theories critical for understanding language acquisition.

His companion textbook, *Best Practices*, provides an introduction to the new field of communication sciences and disorders, as well as, how it differs from the traditional field of speech and hearing sciences. By outlining the shortcomings in the current literature, the text will provide students with the knowledge of how to build their scholarly practice through their use of rational and empirical evidence, and solid theoretical perspectives, such as those outlined in *Language Acquisition*.

Dr. Muma is a professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences with over 90 publications, including nine books. He is also a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and he received the President’s Council Certificate of Excellence for developing the cognitive socialization clinical model.

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**DuBard School Director Martin Re-elected to International Board**

By Catherine Lott

Maureen K. Martin, director of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi, was re-elected to the board of directors for the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC), an accrediting organization for multisensory structured language education training courses.

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**Speech & Hearing Sciences Professor Publishes Textbooks**

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Dr. John Muma

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**Lifelong Learning Program at Southern Miss Expanding to Gulf Park Campus**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) has officially launched a new Student Success website. This site is intended as a “one-stop shop” for a wide range of information related to student success. The site is divided into sections devoted to addressing common questions/needs of students, faculty and staff, and parents.

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