Southern Miss Doctoral Students Conducting Research in Australia

By Hanna Knowles

Southern Miss doctoral students Dave Krzeminski and Nadine Lippa have been awarded an international research fellowship and currently are collaborating with researchers in Australia.

Krzeminski of Grandville, Mich., and Lippa, of Bergen, N.Y., are conducting research at universities in Australia from January – May 2015. They are two of the 235 selected recipients from more than 4,000 applicants around the world. Only 15 Americans were selected for the Endeavour Research Fellowship program, an international, merit-based scholarship provided by the Australian government.

Krzeminski and Lippa hope to build and strengthen the relationships between the Australian universities and Southern Miss.

Sandersons Provide Major Gift for DuBard School at Southern Miss

By Van Arnold

A generous stock gift with proceeds nearing $100,000 from Joe and Kathy Sanderson to The Southern Miss Foundation will help the DuBard School for Language Disorders continue its renowned legacy of providing assistance for children with speech and hearing disabilities.

Sanderson, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Sanderson Farms, Inc., and his wife, Kathy, have been longtime supporters of the DuBard School which began operation on the Hattiesburg campus in 1962.

“Kathy and I have known about the work being done at the DuBard School for many years, and we have known children whose lives have been changed at DuBard,” said Joe Sanderson. “We think what they do is important and certainly deserves to be supported financially.”

Alumni Spotlight

LaShauandra Crook, MS, RD, LD (Nutrition and Food Systems ’06, ’09) is a registered dietitian project manager in the Southern Miss Department of NFS. Since 2006, she has worked on several NFS research projects focused on healthy lifestyle changes. The majority of her work has focused on residents of the Mississippi Delta. Between 2011-2013, she was project manager for Mississippi Communities for Healthy Living, a USDA-sponsored nutrition education research project. During this time, she recruited research participants, trained students to collect data in community settings, managed data collections and health assessments, moderated focus group sessions, and trained nutrition educators. She’s actively involved with the South Central District Dietetic Association and a board member for the Mississippi Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In 2014, she was named Outstanding Professional Staff member in the Southern Miss College of Health.
Researchers to Interview Residents along Mississippi Gulf Coast March 21, 28

By Charmaine Williams Schmermund

Students representing the School of Social Work at The University of Southern Mississippi will conduct a research study on March 21 and 28 interviewing residents in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties. The data collected will be used for a research study on the adaptation and resilience of Mississippi Gulf Coast residents with regard to psychological implications of different hazards, such as Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster.

For questions, contact Dr. Bret Blackmon at 228.214.3275.

Children’s Center, Half Shell Oyster House Plan Special Event March 26

By Van Arnold

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi and Hattiesburg’s Half Shell Oyster House will continue a successful partnership that began in 2014 with another benefit event set for Thursday, March 26 at the restaurant.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the center, Half Shell will give The Children’s Center a percentage of the total evening sales collected between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on March 26. The first event of 2015 was a sell-out lobster- and wine tasting held earlier this month. Half Shell also provided jambalaya for the inaugural run of The Children's Center Classic that took place in February.

"The Children’s Center's ethic of excellence and service make it an ideal partner for Half Shell. We look forward to each event we host for the Center," said Half Shell's general manager Wayne McQueen.

Board of Trustees Extends Contract for Southern Miss President

By Caron Blanton

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning voted recently to extend the contract of University of Southern Mississippi President Dr. Rodney D. Bennett following a careful review of the university under his leadership.

“Dr. Bennett’s leadership has been a tremendous advantage for Southern Miss,” said Trustee Aubrey Patterson, President of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. “From leading the recovery effort after the tornado to numerous other building and beautification projects on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park Campuses, he has provided students with an excellent environment in which to live and learn. His focus on the students is evident in the progress made during his tenure.”

“I remain grateful to the IHL Board of Trustees for granting me the opportunity to serve as President of The University of Southern Mississippi two years ago, and I am proud of the outstanding work we have been able to accomplish during that time,” Bennett said. “I am excited to have been offered this 2-year contract extension, which will allow us to continue providing high-quality education and research programs while strengthening our trajectory of recruiting, enrolling, and graduating high achieving students as we meet the needs of the state of Mississippi and beyond.”

Gulf Park Campus Students Selected for 2014-2015 Who’s Who

Southern Miss has selected 17 students earning their degrees from the Gulf Park campus for the 2014-2015 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Two of the 17 students are earning degrees from the College of Health.

Students were selected based on grades, leadership, extracurricular activities and community contributions throughout their academic career.

The College of Health applauds Jimmie Richmond of Gulfport, bachelor of science in public health (health policy and administration), and Carolyn Roach of Gulfport, bachelor of science in public health (health promotion), for their outstanding achievements which resulted in being named to the 2014-2015 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.