The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg Clinic, and Lamar County School District Partner on Injury Surveillance Study

By Hanna Knowles

Injuries acquired during participation in high school sports can have lifelong physical, emotional and financial consequences. Southern Miss’ School of Human Performance and Recreation (HPR), Hattiesburg Clinic Sports Medicine and Lamar County School District (LCSD) are collaborating on an injury surveillance project focused on recording the incidence of injuries to secondary school athletes requiring removal from practice or competition for any period of time versus those that do not.

The project will use the certified athletic trainer from each participating high school to document all injury events. The collected data will be analyzed for injury patterns during practice and competition in boys’ and girls’ junior varsity and high school sports.

“Descriptive data gleaned from this study, such as recovery time from a concussion, could be correlated with equipment, such as newer technology helmets, that could inform as well as raise the standard of secondary school care provided in the Hattiesburg community,” said Dr. Trent Gould, associate dean of the College of Health and professor in HPR.

“The monitoring of injury patterns in the wide variety of sports offered by LCSD, in conjunction with intervention-based experiments, can likewise serve as a platform for evidence-based recommendations for state level sport participation safety policies.”

Gould and Dr. Scott Piland, associate professor and assistant director of HPR, are lead investigators on the project. The Hattiesburg Clinic Sports Medicine department has provided sports medicine coverage through its athletic trainers to LCSD for several years. The project began in August with the start of the 2013-2014 academic year and will continue indefinitely.

“We hope this partnership will provide information that will advance our overall care of athletes, especially in the area of prevention,” said Mike Williamson, director of Sports Medicine at Hattiesburg Clinic. “This data collection will assist us with evidence-based practices that will improve policies, procedures and practice patterns for athletic health care.”

Gould and Piland plan to expand their injury surveillance program to four additional high schools by spring 2015.

Alumni Spotlight

David Thrash, BS (Medical Technology, ‘93) is the Education Coordinator in the laboratory at Forrest General Hospital (FGH). David has served the Southern Miss Department of Medical Laboratory Science as a guest lecturer and as rotation coordinator for students completing their phase II practicum at FGH. While at FGH, he has been honored with the Laboratorian of the Year Award and Circle of Excellence Award for Professionalism. David is actively involved in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science; on the state level, he has served as President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as numerous other positions, and has been bestowed the Member of the Year Award, Presidential Service Award, and many Omicron Sigma awards for his volunteerism. On the regional and national level, he has served as Board Member and National Planning Meeting Co-Chair. In Spring 2015 David will return to Southern Miss to complete a master’s degree in Medical Laboratory Science.

Dean’s Blog:

Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.
Southern Miss was awarded the MORA Donor Challenge trophy. Left to right: Mackenzie Thaxton, Ian Benge, Ebony Core, Ryan Domiano, Chuck Stinson from MORA, Preston Bell, Alanna Fajiano, Jessica Ringo, Dianne S. Coleman, Rebecca Elbet, Trent Johnson. (Photo by Van Arnold, University Communications)

Southern Miss Captures Organ Donor Challenge Again
By Van Arnold

For the second time in the past three years, Southern Miss has won the Donor Challenge sponsored by the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA). Chuck Stinson, director of marketing and media relations for MORA, presented a $500 donation and Donor Challenge trophy to Dianne Coleman, assistant to the dean in the College of Health, during a special ceremony held Friday, Nov. 21. College of Health ambassadors guided Southern Miss to the Donor Challenge win. The challenge is a form of college outreach that promotes the need for organ, eye and tissue donation. During the five-week challenge period, Southern Miss accounted for more donor designation than the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University combined.

Children’s Center at Southern Miss Receives Important Designation
By Van Arnold

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at Southern Miss has been recognized by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as an ASHA Approved Continuing Education Provider.

DuBard School Now Enrolling for After-School Program Targeting Dyslexia
By Catherine Lott

The DuBard School for Language Disorders at Southern Miss is currently enrolling for an after-school program to serve young struggling readers. The Language Enhancement and Achievement Program (LEAP) is designed for elementary students with challenges in reading, spelling and written language, who may or may not have a diagnosis of dyslexia. The after-school program includes three one-hour sessions per week beginning in January, 2015.

Because students learn best in one-on-one and small group instructional settings, spaces are limited and reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is a fee for the service with limited scholarships available.

More than 100 students, faculty, alumni and community members gear up to race in the 19th annual Homecoming 5K Eagle Run at Southern Miss. Athletes training students, in the School of Human Performance and Recreation, successfully hosted the event held on the Hattiesburg campus.