College of Health Newsletter

College of Health Newsletter contains news and events from our schools, departments, and centers to keep you informed and engaged with the College. Health care and health promotion are crucial to the well-being of our state and nation, and Southern Miss is leading the way. Please continue to stay involved with the College of Health and your respective academic program in order to help take Southern Miss to the Top!

April 2014

Calendar of Events:

Commencement Ceremonies

Hattiesburg students
Bernard Reed Green Coliseum
Hattiesburg, MS
Friday, May 9, 2014
10 a.m.
Colleges of Business, Health, Education & Psychology
2:30 p.m.
Colleges of Arts & Letters, Nursing, and Science & Technology

Gulf Coast students
Mississippi Coast Coliseum
Biloxi, MS
Saturday, May 10, 2014
10 a.m. – All Colleges

Watch a streaming Webcast of the ceremonies and join the Commencement conversation with Twitter hashtag #usmgrad! www.usm.edu/live

Hattiesburg Restaurant Forms Partnership with Children’s Center

The management and owners of Half Shell Oyster House in Hattiesburg opened their hearts and wallets to support The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi.

On Saturday, March 22, Half Shell donated 10 percent of its gross receipts from 4 p.m.-11 p.m. to The Children’s Center to support the Center’s transformative work with very young children with disabilities.

“When my wife and I walked through the doors of The Children’s Center, we felt the positive energy and the hope. We were inspired by the staff and the families working so hard to help these young children get a great start in life,” said Wayne McQueen, general manager of Half Shell’s Hattiesburg restaurant.

USM College of Health receives $500 from MORA

By Charles Herrington, WDAM, reprinted with permission

The College of Health at the University of Southern Mississippi has received a $500 donation from the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency for its participation in the 2013 Donor Challenge.

Over a nine-week period last fall, student ambassadors from the College of Health registered 332 people to be organ and tissue donors.

Southern Miss was competing against Ole Miss, Alcorn State and Jackson State in that challenge and finished in second place behind Ole Miss, which won by three registrations.

USM won the inaugural Donor Challenge in 2012 competing against Mississippi State University.

Alumni Spotlight

Tiffani Grant, MS, RD, is the Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Preventive Health, where she develops program strategies and provides professional development and technical assistance to community-based organizations and school districts on implementing effective community and school health programs. She is also an adjunct instructor at Tulane University School of Continuing Studies in Madison, MS. Previously, Tiffani served as the Program Director for Mallory Community Health Center’s Healthy Families Movement Weight Management Program and the University of Mississippi Medical Center where she educated Mississippi Delta patients about therapeutic diets. She received her B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics (’01) and M.S. in Nutrition and Food Systems (’06) from Southern Miss.

Faculty, staff, and families joined together April 12, 2014 for the annual White Coat Ceremony to recognize the Class of 2015 Audiology doctoral students who have completed their academic requirements and will begin their final externship prior to their graduation. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Susan Hubble-Burchell, Assistant to the Dean for Curriculum and Program Development; Dr. Michael Forster, Dean, College of Health; students Karen Bell, Kaitlyn Roberts, Jessica Mahaffey, and Courtney Goss; and Dr. Denis Wiesenburg, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Left to right: CoH Ambassadors Alanna Buckley, Tiffany Howard, Dr. Michael Forster, Ebony Core, Janet Davies-Cramer and Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency representatives Joel Stevens (Hospital Development Coordinator) and Chuck Stinson (Director of Marketing and Media Relations).

Dean’s Blog:

Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.
The 2013 College of Health Annual Report is available online at http://www.usm.edu/health/annual-report-e-newsletter

Southern Miss SCUBA Program Returns

On April 21, 2011, a pre-dawn fire swept through the Johnson Natatorium at The University of Southern Mississippi. The flames and intense heat destroyed all SCUBA equipment, a week before students were to take their open water certification dives.

Three years later, the SCUBA program, offered by the university’s School of Human Performance and Recreation, is back. Students are able to earn college credit for courses ranging from basic certification to specialties such as advanced diver and rescue diver. In some cases, students may apply these skills to a future profession, such as marine biology or therapeutic recreation.

“We were unable to resume the program until the natatorium renovations were complete,” said Dr. Susan Hubble-Burchell, assistant to the dean of the College of Health for curriculum and program development. “The university community once again has convenient access to an exciting recreational activity.”

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Southern Miss Introduces New Dyslexia Therapy Master’s Program

By Catherine Lott

Southern Mississippi is now accepting applications for individuals interested in obtaining a master of education degree in dyslexia therapy. This will be the first program of its kind in the state of Mississippi offered by a public institution.

A collaboration between the DuBard School for Language Disorders in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, this degree program will prepare graduates to become dyslexia therapists licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education.

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To kick off Medical Laboratory Professional Week, April 20-26, 2014, Mayor Dupree signed a proclamation declaring the week of April 20-26, 2014 Medical Laboratory Professionals Week in Hattiesburg. At the City Council meeting on April 8, 2014, the Mayor presented the proclamation to the Medical Laboratory Science senior class. We appreciate the City of Hattiesburg's continuous support of the Medical Laboratory Science Program at Southern Miss!