The list is designed as a guide for students interested in pursuing a master’s of public health degree. Criteria used to compile the list included the reputation of the institution along with the personal achievements of each dean.

Forster notes that the Southern Miss program is driven by “a dedicated and research-active faculty, a strong commitment to public health and well-being generally, strong connections to both the public and private health sectors, a variety of instructional formats – including an innovative executive format.”

Newman Named Chair of Community Health Sciences at Southern Miss

By Van Arnold

Dr. Ray Newman, a longtime health care executive and higher education scholar, has been named chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Newman has served as a visiting professor at Southern Miss for the past three years in health policy and administration. Dr. Emmanuel Ahua had served as interim chair of the department since Dr. James McGuire stepped down in May, 2011.
“My primary objective in this new role is to provide leadership and strategic management for the department in planning for the future and creating an environment for faculty to be successful in supporting the mission of the university,” said Newman, a former Naval officer who completed two tours during the Vietnam War.

Newman’s impressive career includes serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Parkland Hospital System in Dallas and executive vice president and chief financial officer of St. Luke’s/Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City. His 20-year academic career includes full-time appointments as professor at New York University and Tulane University.

Neal Stephens became one of the initial “guinea pigs” of the renowned Dore Program more than a decade ago, and today he wears that distinction with honor.

Stephens, who grew up in Magee, Miss. and later earned a degree from Harvard in economics, serves as director of the Dore Program in Mississippi. He credits the unique learning system for enhancing his academic and professional careers.

“I was one of the first Americans to complete the program back in 2002 as a high school sophomore,” said Stephens. “As I began the Dore Program, I first noticed changes on the basketball court in my ball control, dribbling and movement around the court. As I continued, I retook the ACT, which I had already taken a few times in preparation for college, and my reading score increased enough to greatly impact my composite score.”

Fast forward to the present: “I continue to be a quick learner and am able to comprehend what I read so much more easily than I did before Dore,” said Stephens.

With an office already established in Jackson, Miss., Dore has now expanded to Hattiesburg by opening a new branch inside the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) at The University of Southern Mississippi. IDS Co-Director Dr. Jane Siders said the partnership with Dore provides an opportunity for Southern Miss to be involved in ground-level research of a treatment procedure that shows tremendous success internationally.