Children’s Center at Southern Miss Creates 40th Anniversary Calendar

By Van Arnold

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development is celebrating an historic milestone with the creation of a special calendar commemorating the facility’s 40th anniversary.

The unique 15-month anniversary calendar highlights this year’s 40th “graduating” class by featuring many of the beautiful children while sharing the history and success stories of several alumni from the past four decades.

Many members of the Cameraderie Photo Club of Hattiesburg donated their time and talent by photographing children for the 40th anniversary calendar.

Brent Wallace, Cameraderie Club president, noted, “One of the greatest joys of being a photographer is capturing some of the amazing expressions all children exhibit and, through the efforts of The Children’s Center, our club was granted that privilege. Not only did these beautiful children leave an indelible impression on our mind’s eye but also on our hearts.

“Every day these precious students overcome challenges that are unimaginable to most. It is our sincere wish that these photos may serve as an inspiration to all who educate and nurture them,” he said.

Calendars are currently on sale for $10 each at The Children’s Center located in the J.B. George Building on campus or online at www.usm.edu/childrenscenter. Proceeds will support the ongoing work of The Children's Center. For more information call 601-266-5222.
DuBard Symposium on Dyslexia Brings Renowned Experts

By Catherine Lott

Keynote addresses by renowned experts and interactive breakout sessions will highlight the 17th Annual DuBard Symposium: Dyslexia and Related Disorders set for Sept. 18-19 at the Thad Cochran Center on The University of Southern Mississippi’s Hattiesburg campus.

Each year, educators, administrators, speech-language pathologists, dyslexia therapists, psychologists, social workers and parents from across the Southeast gather for the DuBard Symposium to gain information, review products and services, and network with peers.

“With 15 sessions on varying topics, this two-day event will provide attendees with a variety of tools they can use to be successful in their work with individuals with dyslexia and related disorders,” said DuBard School professional development coordinator Missy Schraeder.

Keynote speakers include: Dr. David Chard, dean of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University. His lecture, titled “Transforming Education: Balancing Innovation with Evidence” will provide attendees with information on how to bridge innovation and evidence-based instructional approaches to propel literacy outcomes forward for all learners.

Dr. Julie Masterson, professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Missouri State University, will present “Spelling, Reading and Writing: Using Metalinguistic Skills to Enhance Literacy Performance.” Dr. Masterson will cover research regarding literacy development in children with communication disorders, methods for identifying potential causal factors in children’s spelling errors, and intervention activities and strategies.

In addition to the two keynote addresses and multitude of breakout sessions, the Symposium is offering a parent track geared more towards the needs of parents and those living with individuals with dyslexia and related disorders, including a featured session by Gina Fiorentini-Wright, visiting professor in the Department of Public Health at The University of Southern Mississippi. Her session, titled “Surviving? No, Thriving: Managing Stress,” is designed to help parents caring for children with special needs recognize the stress response and to mitigate the negative effects that stress can have upon health, relationships and the family environment.

The symposium is presented by the DuBard School for Language Disorders and the International Association Method Task Force in partnership with The University of Southern Mississippi Office of Professional Development and Educational Outreach.

Registration is available online until September 13 for $135. Onsite registration will also be available. Continuing education units for speech-language pathologists, educators and school administrators are available. For more information or to register, visit: http://www.usm.edu/dubard-training or call 601.266.4186.

Six Months Later, Southern Miss Marks Progress in Recovery from Tornado

By David Tisdale

University of Southern Mississippi officials are pleased with efforts to rebound from an EF-4 tornado that damaged buildings and landscaping on its Hattiesburg campus six months ago.

The storm roared through the Pine Belt Feb. 10 and struck the south side and main entrance of the university. Approximately 75 trees were destroyed and the front of the historic Ogletree House was severely damaged, along with some of the university’s fine arts facilities.

“Thanks in large part to the hard work of faculty, staff and students, as well as the overwhelming support of the Southern Miss family and elected officials, we are making significant progress in our recovery,” said Southern Miss President Rodney Bennett.

Southern Miss Alumna Receives Professional Award

By Mike Riley

Speech language pathologist Leigh Ann (Bridgers) Riley, left, recently received the University of South Alabama’s Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology’s Outstanding Off-Campus Supervisor award for Speech Language Pathology. This honor was based on the recommendations of her past graduate students for her outstanding and ongoing commitment to assist in their education, training, and guidance needed in a direct, patient-based clinical setting. Riley works with the adult neurogenic population at Mobile Bay Rehabilitation Hospital in Daphne, AL. Riley earned her M.S. with honors in Speech and Hearing Sciences in 1991 and a B.S. with honors in Liberal Arts in 1990 from Southern Miss.