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 continues to be a crucial element in the development of our 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!

December, 2012

Dr. Michael Forster, Dean for the College of Health, commented on the College of Health’s success. “First, the college’s visibility is generally up, due to improved communications – notably – a current website, a widely distributed e-newsletter, and better publicity for community forums and events. Second, individual programs now conduct their own tailored recruiting efforts, often targeting specific student markets; of special note are fully on-line graduate programs in medical laboratory science, sport coaching education, and sport management, as well as a specialized graduate social work program for public child welfare workers. Third, we are benefiting from the strong market demand for health professionals generally. Employment in the health sector as a whole is strong and continues to grow. Essentially, our graduates get jobs.”

Graduating with a job is very important to all college students, especially in today’s economy. Southern Miss is experiencing continued growth in student recruitment due in part to the continued growth of the College of Health and its health programs.

Dr. Forster also adds, “Looking forward, the college’s strategic enrollment plan is to emphasize “smart” growth, defined as growth combining market demand, quality standards, and a favorable revenue generation-cost ratio. Smart growth might occur in any of the college’s existing programs, though the departments or schools seemingly with the greatest potential for additional growth on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses are Social Work, Community Health Sciences, and Human Performance and Recreation.”

College of Health Leads Southern Miss with Consistent Enrollment Increases

By Traci L. Breland

The College of Health has experienced consistently increased enrollment numbers every year for the last five years at The University of Southern Mississippi. The College of Health has seen a 34% overall increase since fall of 2008 in full time student enrollment.

The largest increases are boasted by the School of Social Work, which has increased its student enrollment by 88% and the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems follows closely behind with a 74% increase. The Department of Community Health Sciences has also impressively increased its student enrollment by 58%.

The College of Health also houses the School of Human Performance and Recreation, the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, and the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, all of which have also experienced student enrollment increases.

College of Health Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Robyn Jones, ‘92

Dr. Robyn Jones currently serves as a professor at the Cardiff School of Sport at Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales, UK. He obtained a Ph.D. in Human Performance at The University of Southern Mississippi in 1992. Dr. Jones is a very accomplished health professional with experience at the University of Wales Institute, The Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo, Norway, and many others. He has contributed to the publishing of a very large number of books, book chapters, peer reviewed journals, presentations, and other professional publications. He has also been an active professional with a large, diverse number of grant funded research projects and professional examinships, as well as other related activities worldwide.

Dr. Robyn Jones, '92
Southern Miss School of Social Work Sponsors Annual Colloquium
By Ryan Kelly

The School of Social Work at The University of Southern Mississippi hosted its annual Social Work Colloquium on Friday, Nov. 16 in the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus. This year’s event titled, “New Directions in Trauma Treatment: Implications for Social Work Policy and Practice,” featured a number of regionally and nationally-known speakers.

More than 200 students, faculty, staff and community members heard presentations from Dr. Ray Scurfield, professor emeritus and nationally known researcher for post-traumatic stress disorder; Nick Rutledge, trauma educator and clinical instructor in the School of Social Work, Dr. Sheila Robinett, military sexual trauma psychologist and MST coordinator for the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Care Systems; Elliott Hill, program director for the Mississippi Integrated Health Disaster Program in the School of Social Work, and Fran Baker, expert in secondary trauma.

Library Student Association Donates Books to Children's Center
By Van Arnold

Youngsters at The Children’s Center for Communication and Development wasted no time delving into the large stack of books donated by the Library and Information Science Student Association at The University of Southern Mississippi on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Group President Callie Wiygul and other members of the organization presented 288 new and used books to the center as part of a fall service project. Wiygul noted that the group selects an outreach/service project for benefactors in the Hattiesburg community each semester.

Sports Nutrition Seminar Features Winning Strategies for Performance
By Ryan Kelly

“Sports Nutrition: Playing a Winning Game” served as the topic of the 3rd Annual Department of Nutrition and Food Systems Seminar held earlier this month at The University of Southern Mississippi.

More than 80 students, faculty and community members attended the annual seminar which featured elements of nutrition as it relates to various professions and current topics. This year’s seminar featured three sports dietitians -- Jamie Mascari, Rebecca Turner and Tavis Piattoy.

Southern Miss Students Receive Advice from Veterinary Administrator
By Tara Burcham

Dr. Richard W. Meiring, assistant dean for Admissions and Student Affairs at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University recently visited The University of Southern Mississippi campus to speak with healthcare pre-professional students interested in veterinary medicine.

Meiring, a clinical professor, discussed application processes, admission procedures, and expectations of students who apply to the program.

Meiring emphasized to the interested students that as early as their freshman year they should start shadowing a vet, which will help them when they apply to veterinary school. Students can apply in the spring of their junior year.