From all of us at
The University of Southern Mississippi
College of Health,
we wish you and yours a
happy, healthy holiday season!

For the eighth year in a row, Kevin Harrison of Heritage Vision Center has donated a portion of eyeglass sales during the month of July to The Children’s Center for Communication and Development because of his love for children and in memory of his daughter, Beth. With the $1,500 check presented on October 3, 2013, the cumulative total is quickly approaching $50,000. “When I would come to visit the Children’s Center, Beth would often ask if she could come with me. Some of my most treasured pictures I have of her are when she would come and entertain the children – or, they would entertain her. When she passed away, we knew that her heart was with these children and the wonderful people who work with them.”

Alumni Spotlight
Vamsi Vasireddy, MD, MPH, DrPH is a public health physician with over 12 years experience working in the fields of health services delivery and health system strengthening in Africa, Asia, and the U.S. He serves as the principal investigator of ACTwatch, a project being implemented across 10 countries to inform policymakers on improving access to antimalarial medicines and diagnostic testing. Prior to ACTwatch, Vamsi designed and implemented the first assessment of the local public health system in Israel, and the first and only comprehensive health systems strengthening framework for the Liberian Ministry of Health. He has also worked to eradicate leprosy in India and on piloting public health accreditation in Illinois. Vamsi continues to practice clinical medicine and resides in Nairobi, Kenya and Chicago, IL. Vamsi was awarded an MD from the University of Health Sciences, India (2000), an MPH from Southern Miss (2004) and a DrPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2012).
SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG MAKES $4,600 DONATION TO DUBARD SCHOOL

The Sunrise Rotary Club of Hattiesburg presented the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi with a check for $4,600 on Tuesday, June 1. The club recently hosted a 5K run/walk and chose to give the proceeds to DuBard School.

Southern Miss Basketball Coaching Legend M.K. Turk Passes Away

By Jack Duggan

M.K. Turk, the winningest men’s basketball coach in the history of Southern Miss, passed away December 6. He was 71.

Turk spent 20 seasons as the head basketball coach at The University of Southern Mississippi and finished his career as the all-time winningest coach in school history with 301 Golden Eagle victories, one NIT championship, two NCAA appearances and six NIT appearances.

School of Social Work Director Named 2014 Grand Marshal—Distinguished Professor

The University of Southern Mississippi Grand Marshal Review Committee and Provost Denis Wiesenburg have selected Dr. Timothy Rehner as the 2014 Grand Marshal—Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Jeffrey Evans

The Grand Marshal—Distinguished Professor award recognizes a senior faculty member who has excelled in teaching, research and service. As the 2014 Grand Marshal—Distinguished Professor, Dr. Rehner will be recognized and serve as Grand Marshal at the university commencement ceremonies during 2014.

Dr. Rehner was named Director of the School of Social Work in 2008. He joined the School of Social Work faculty in 1995 and co-founded and served as director of the Family Network Partnership, a university-affiliated community-based delinquency prevention agency. Since 2003, Dr. Rehner has also served as the Director of the Caribbean Studies (Jamaica) program.

Southern Miss Offers New Preprofessional Healthcare Assistance

By Tara Burcham

For students seeking help in navigating the mountainous paperwork associated with healthcare career planning, The University of Southern Mississippi offers an answer. The Healthcare Preprofessional Office, which advises more than 500 Southern Miss students in health care preprofessional fields, is now led by Dr. Jeffrey Evans, a former Southern Miss faculty member.

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Holiday Season Welcomes The Children’s Center and Guests to the Ogletree House

By Sarah Case-Price

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development, a clinical division of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Southern Miss, has made visiting the Ogletree House and the Alumni Association staff an annual holiday season tradition. With the help of clinicians and teachers, children hand-make Christmas tree ornaments with each child’s photograph on the ornament. Children’s Center staff hang the ornaments on the Association’s tree in anticipation of the visit.

The Alumni Association welcomed Children’s Center staff, children and families on Dec. 3, as the children located their handmade ornaments, which now adorn the Association’s tree. The ornaments will be on display in the main corridor of the Ogletree House throughout the month of December.

On Monday, Dec. 2, Southern Miss President Rodney D. Bennett visited with students and staff at the DuBard School for Language Disorders on the Hattiesburg campus.

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