The significance of this gift to the future of the School of Nursing, its faculty, alumni and future students,” said Dr. Katherine Nugent, director of the School of Nursing. “We are honored that the Asbury Foundation has chosen to invest in The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing and its future.

“Southern Miss Nursing is a dynamic and vibrant school that is poised to meet the future health care needs of the state. This substantial gift from the Asbury Foundation will facilitate the realization of that vision.”

Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health at Southern Miss, noted that the commitment is timely.

“Nursing is a pivotal health care profession, and the need for more and more highly trained nurses is projected to expand dramatically into the foreseeable future,” said Forster.

Southern Miss Announces Campaign to Construct New Nursing Building

By Amy Martin

The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation announced an $8 million fundraising campaign on Wednesday, Jan. 18 to help construct a new facility for the University’s School of Nursing.

The School of Nursing Building Campaign is off to a strong start with a $4 million commitment from the Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg Inc., a gift that will name the proposed building Asbury Hall, pending College Board approval.

The state-of-the-art facility, which will be located on the western edge of the Hattiesburg campus, will increase the square footage dedicated to the School of Nursing by 135 percent, providing much-needed space for faculty and students and replacing a facility that can no longer meet the requirements of nursing education.

“It is difficult to find words that will adequately express the significance of this gift to the future of the School of Nursing, its faculty, alumni and future students,” said Dr. Katherine Nugent, director of the School of Nursing. “We are honored that the Asbury Foundation has chosen to invest in The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing and its future.

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Southern Miss Professor Leads Research with Undergraduate Students’ Support

By Ryan Kelly

Dr. Geoffrey Hudson, assistant professor of exercise science at The University of Southern Mississippi, has partnered with four undergraduate students on an important research project involving weight loss supplements.

The students – Bethany Boleware, Emily Buras, Lisa Knecht and Cody Tullos – are assisting Hudson on research for a private company that includes the testing of a weight loss nutritional supplement. The double-blind, four-month study relies on two sets of volunteers: a group receiving the dietary supplement and

College of Health Alumni Spotlight
Beth White ’82, ’05

Beth White is currently the director of laboratory sciences for Memorial Hospital, Gulfport (MHG). Previously, Mrs. White served as the Education Coordinator in the laboratory of MHG for 16 years. She has also served as a rotation coordinator for Southern Miss Medical Technology clinical students at MHG. Mrs. White has two degrees from Southern Miss, a BS in Medical Technology in 1982 and an MS in Medical Technology in 2005. Additionally, she is married to a fellow Medical Technology graduate, Rickey White, and her daughter is a current student at Southern Miss.
Results are compiled using a variety of physiological tests and are used to determine the efficacy of the supplement. The students assist with body composition testing, dietary analysis, tracking of blood samples and analysis of the results.

“It is wonderful to have eager students get involved with research as undergraduates,” said Hudson. “They have been able to witness remarkable results from the study in which one participant lost as much as 60 pounds through a mix of diet and exercise.”

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College of Health Announces Forum Series

Article by Ryan Kelly

The College of Health will hold its annual spring Forum Series, sponsored by Hattiesburg Clinic, in order to continue excellence in education as it relates to health care in our society.

Topics for the forums include pioneering approaches to disease prevention and wellness, an overview of the Affordable Care Act, and an analysis of the relationship between poverty and health.

Students, faculty, staff, community members, and health care professionals are invited to attend to hear an array of health professionals that will present a diversified platform of modern, interesting topics. Continuing education credit will be available for specified professions, and refreshments will be served. The forum will include sites on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses.

The first forum will be held on Thursday, March 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Thad Cochran Center Ballroom.

For more information, visit the College of Health website.

DuBard School at Southern Miss Receives $6,000 AT&T Grant

Article by Van Arnold

The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi recently received a $6,000 grant from The AT&T Foundation that will be used to update the school’s Rosetta Stone software.

“Use Rosetta Stone, in English, to reinforce the language and reading skills the students are learning in the classroom,” said school director Dr. Maureen Martin. “This grant will allow us to replace the outdated Rosetta Stone software we are currently using. We truly appreciate the AT&T Foundation for supporting the education of our students.”

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Southern Miss Health Educators Work to Reverse State's Failing Grade

Article by Van Arnold

Despite statistics that continue to show Mississippi failing in vital public health categories, educators at The University of Southern Mississippi remain undaunted in their efforts to reverse the dismal trend.

Last week the Mississippi State Medical Association, in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Health, gave the state a failing grade in its 2011 Public Health Report Card. Among the more alarming statistics, Mississippi has more obese adults per capita than any state in the nation and leads in deaths by heart disease. The state ranks second in cases of diabetes and hypertension, as well as infant mortality.

Dr. Mike Forster, dean of the College of Health at Southern Miss, noted that the university produces more than 700 health care professionals per year – nurses, nutritionists, medical technologists, public health educators, speech pathologists, recreation specialists, social workers and more -- who support the health services infrastructure of the state and the region.

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I have always had a love for the game of baseball. Like many kids today, I started playing organized baseball in the first grade and continued playing recreationally through graduate school. I liked every aspect of the game as well as the camaraderie and culture.

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