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!

February 2014

Southern Miss Assistant Professor Guest Editor for Strength and Conditioning Journal

By Hanna Knowles

Dr. Brian Gearity, assistant professor of sport coaching education at The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Human Performance and Recreation, served as guest editor for the just released edition of the Strength and Conditioning Journal.

The February edition is the first edition entirely dedicated to the topic of coaching education in the strength and conditioning profession. Topics usually include scientific research papers on biomechanics, injury prevention and physiology.

Gearity opens the special issue with an editorial on coaching education and its growing importance as an area of study.

“There is a need to understand the practice of coaching from an educational lens. There has been an explosion of psychological and sociological theories of learning that I wanted reflected in this journal,” said Gearity.

For two years, Gearity worked selecting and editing papers, facilitating peer reviews, and working with authors. The special issue contains papers from a diverse group of authors, discussing different aspects of coaching, strengthening and conditioning. Gearity and Dr. Melissa Thompson, also of the School of Human Performance and Recreation, contributed to two of the 10 papers.

Gearity’s special issue focuses on bridging the gap between research and practice.

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Children’s Center Students Serve as Honorary Coaches for Lady Eagles

By Sarah Case

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development and the Lady Eagles basketball organization will team up on March 1, 2014 for pre-game and half-time activities starting at 3:40 p.m. Tip-off against Tulane University is at 4:00 p.m.

Fans are invited to come out and cheer on the pint-sized honorary coaches and the Lady Eagles winning squad!

Alumni Spotlight

Laura Ann Wilber is a professor emerita of audiology and hearing sciences at Northwestern University. She is certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in both speech-language pathology and audiology. Dr. Wilber has worked to perfect the equipment used to assess hearing and amplification devices and has been active in the creation of standards for these devices and for audiometric testing procedures. Her work has been published in professional journals, books, and several book chapters dealing with audiologic testing and calibration of equipment. She has served as president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Academy of Rehabilitation Audiology, and the American Auditory Society. She was also a founding member of the American Academy of Audiology. Dr. Wilber earned a PhD in Audiology from Northwestern University, a master's degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University, and a bachelor’s degree in Speech Correction from Southern Miss.

Dr. Frances Lucas, Vice-President for the Southern Miss Gulf Park Campus, toured The Children’s Center for Communication and Development and spent some quality time with some of the Center’s young students and their families. Dr. Lucas also visited with Southern Miss Students and staff. The Center has recently begun providing services from the Gulf Park Campus for children with hearing impairments.

College of Health Newsletter

Calendar of Events:

Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences
2014 Summer Phlebotomy Certificate Program
Application Deadline
March 30, 2014

School of Social Work
Diversity Dash – 5K Run/Walk/Roll
“Educate the World/Celebrate Diversity”
April 12, 2014 – 10 am
Centennial Lawn

College of Health
Spring Forum
“Hattiesburg’s Midtown: Health-Enhancing Economic and Community Development”
April 15, 2014
12 noon - 2 p.m.

Dean’s Blog:

Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.
Children's Center Opens Classroom for Hearing Impaired Children on Gulf Park Campus

By Charmaine Williams Schmermund

Children who are hearing impaired and are age five years old or younger are the focus of deaf education and early oral intervention services offered by The Children's Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park campus in Long Beach. The Children's Center is a clinical program in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Southern Miss.

Serving as a satellite program of The Children’s Center, the deaf education and early oral intervention program serves children in Mississippi’s southernmost counties. The goal of the program, which provides auditory-verbal intervention and deaf education, is to develop listening and spoken language skills so infants and children with hearing impairments can maximize their potential both educationally and socially.

“We are excited to work with families, local school districts and the state’s First Steps program to bring our comprehensive services directly to the six southernmost counties,” said Sarah Case-Price, the center's director.

One Year Later, Southern Miss Closer to Recovery from Savage Tornado

By David Tisdale

On Monday, Feb. 10, The University of Southern Mississippi marked a year since a destructive EF-4 tornado struck its Hattiesburg campus, damaging buildings and destroying trees, primarily at its front entrance next to Hardy Street.

University officials are pleased with progress to restore the campus and look forward to completing all work connected with recovery from the storm by the end of 2014.

“We have demonstrated that our resolve can help us weather the darkest of storms,” said Southern Miss President Rodney Bennett during a convocation held at Bennett Auditorium to update the university community on the progress the university has made. “When we come together, great things are possible.”

Bennett was joined by Dr. Chris Crenshaw, director of the university’s Physical Plant, who gave an update on storm-recovery projects. “By December, I believe we should see the completion of work on those projects connected to the damage caused by the storm,” he said.

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View “Spirit of Southern Miss” video

View Ceremony

Haley Rishel, left, teaches about the weather to four year old students Collin Gonzalez, center, and Azlynn Costenbader at The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park campus in Long Beach. Rishel is an early oral interventionist at the center, which provides deaf education and early oral intervention services for children who are hearing impaired and age five years old or younger. (Southern Miss University Communications photo by Charmaine Schmermund)