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 and health promotion are crucial to the well-being of our state and 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!

July 2014

Hall Named Interim Associate Dean for the College of Health at Gulf Park

Dr. Stacey Hall, Associate Professor of Human Performance and Recreation, has been appointed by Dean Michael Forster to serve as part-time interim associate dean for the College of Health at Gulf Park during the 2014-15 fiscal year, effective immediately. A search for a full-time associate dean based on the Gulf Park campus will begin early in the fall semester.

Dr. Hall’s central responsibility will be to facilitate the work of the CoH academic units presently on the Gulf Park campus (Public Health, Social Work, and Human Performance), working closely with chairs/directors, along with Gulf Park staff and administrators, while reporting directly to Dean Forster. She will average two days per week on the Gulf Park campus, but will maintain a flexible schedule based on the needs of the college.

Dean Forster remarked, “I very much appreciate Dr. Hall’s willingness to take up a challenging role during an important period of transition for Southern Miss and the College of Health. I know that you will extend to her your good wishes and support.”

Social Work Graduate Student Selected for W.K. Kellogg Fellowship

By Hanna Knowles

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has selected a graduate student from The University of Southern Mississippi to participate in its inaugural Community Leadership Network, a fellowship dedicated to helping vulnerable children and their families.

Sheila Nabors of Tupelo, Miss., a graduate student in the College of Health’s School of Social Work, is one of the 120 selected fellows from the 2,000 applicants. The first class consists of leaders from the foundation’s targeted areas of Mississippi, Michigan, New Mexico and New Orleans.

“The group includes social workers, senators, and lawyers. I am honored and grateful to be amongst such heroes,” said Nabors.

Department of Medical Laboratory Science offering new MLT to MLS program

The Department of Medical Laboratory Science will accept students this fall for a new degree completion program in medical laboratory science. The new B.S. degree plan is for employed, certified, site-bound medical laboratory technicians who hold an associate degree in applied science.

Online versions of the campus practicum courses will be available as well as a limited number of online preparatory courses to help increase the students’ success in the practicum courses and for the national certification exam.

In addition to the online courses, students must have the support of their employers to perform designated procedures to verify competency in specific laboratory procedures.

For more information, see http://www.usm.edu/medical-laboratory-science%20.

Alumni Spotlight
Katie Allen, MPH is a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Michael Burgess, M.D., from Texas. She handles healthcare, veterans, and science policy issues for the Congressman’s personal office. Prior to joining Congressman Burgess’ staff, Katie was a Policy Analyst for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, where she worked on health insurance regulation and contracting for the Agency. Katie graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Public Health degree in December 2012 from Southern Miss. For her practicum in the program, she served as a consultant for a health policy unit at the University of Maryland—Baltimore County. As a graduate student, she also interned for two federal agencies, working on health and nutrition policy. Katie received her B.A. in political science from Mississippi State University in 2010.
Thanks to the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg’s Annual Night in Italy benefit dinner, The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi received a donation of $11,065. Sarah Case-Price, director of The Children’s Center, received a check from Rotary president, Dr. Scott Hummel, and Rotary member, Chris Price. This is the tenth year Rotary of Hattiesburg has supported and partnered with The Children’s Center, bringing the donation total to $122,110.

**Staff Member Nominated for MORA Donation Advocate Award**

By Hanna Knowles

Dianne Coleman, assistant to College of Health Dean Dr. Michael Forster for recruitment and special projects, was nominated for the Mississippi Organ Donor Recovery Agency’s (MORA) Donation Advocate Spero Award. The inaugural Spero Award Ceremony was held July 10 in Jackson, Miss.

The Spero Awards recognize hospital partners, medical professionals, corporate partners, funeral home directors, coroners, volunteers and donor advocates. According to MORA, honorees are selected because of their tireless work to “promote organ, eye and tissue donation to ultimately save and enhance lives.”

**Faculty Member Named Medical Fitness Association Fellow**

By Hanna Knowles

Melissa Ziegler, instructor in the School of Human Performance and Recreation at The University of Southern Mississippi, has been named a Fellow by the Medical Fitness Association (MFA). A kinesiotherapy instructor, Ziegler also serves as executive director of the American Kinesiotherapy Association (AKTA), a national nonprofit organization based in Hattiesburg.

“This distinction means a great deal to me, as it directly reflects my ongoing commitment to the Medical Fitness Association,” said Ziegler. “Continued development of the MFA and the AKTA are directly related to my passion for promoting medically-based fitness. It is imperative and rewarding that we provide the tools to support a lifestyle that can help reduce preventable illness and disease.”