Some freshmen are prepared to confidently plunge into university life; others cautiously test the water with a toe. Jennie Thomas took the plunge.

Jennie, daughter of Karen and John Thomas, came from Batesville, Miss., to Southern Miss on an Honors College Presidential Scholarship funded by College of Health benefactor Dr. Beverly Dale. She chose the bachelor’s degree in nutrition and dietetics with a minor in chemistry as her route to the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s School of Medicine. Along with her academic studies Jennie shadowed a family practice nurse and a pediatrician. But Jennie isn’t a spectator; she is a participant and a leader. She served as a research assistant for the Delta Obesity Prevention Unit and for MS/LA Water Quality Emergency Preparedness and worked as a retention tele-counselor assisting freshmen in their transition to Southern Miss. She enrolled in the Caribbean Studies Abroad Program, which led her to assist in the painting of the Ocho Rios Primary School in Jamaica. She has embraced leadership roles in eight student organizations and initiatives including the College of Health Ambassadors.

Because of the academic and leadership caliber of the students selected for the Ambassador program, Jennie’s election to president of this organization was in itself a great honor. Her leadership of the Ambassadors was exceptional and it was the program’s most successful year of promoting health through research, education, and service. Jennie’s leadership resulted in a marked increase in student participation, progress in solidifying the identity of the program on the university campus and in the community, and even the establishment of two college-wide leadership awards.

During her sophomore year at Southern Miss, Jennie went through the interview process that medical school applicants usually do in their senior year. She applied to the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. The MS Rural Physicians Board recognized her zeal for medicine, commitment to serving in rural areas, and potential as a physician.

Brooke obtained a bachelor’s in Nutrition and Dietetics and master’s in Nutrition and Food Systems from Southern Miss, and has used her degrees to work in the field of dietetics for Forrest General Hospital, Berkely Heart Lab, Inc., and Heart Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc. Brooke also has higher education teaching and preceptor experience, and often volunteers at a local women’s shelter through a church outreach program.
hours of all graduating seniors and she was one of eight students named to the Southern Miss Hall of Fame.

Jennie sees a career in medicine as the best way to indulge in her two most intense passions: service to others and taking care of their most important asset—their health. She said, “I feel that the Lord has directed me in such a way that this is the only career I can see myself doing and doing well.”

Reporting from medical school, Jennie said, “My family is my backbone and my entire framework; my parents are the strongest support system I have, and they push me to do and be my best and encourage and love me at the same time.”

Ellie Takes Over as President of Nephrology Nurses Association

Dr. Rowena Elliott, associate professor at The University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing, assumed the reins as president of the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) during the organization’s 42nd annual National Symposium on March 29 in Boston, Mass.

DuBard School Director Martin Attends Conference in Washington D.C.

Dr. Maureen Martin, director of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi, served as the Mississippi representative at the national meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Speech Language Pathology Advisory Council in Washington, D.C.

Forrest General, Southern Miss Team Up to Help Children in Need

When Hattiesburg residents Karen and Anthony Webb took their baby girl home from the hospital, they had no idea that within a few short days little Jordyn would be back in the hospital for a condition that would change her life, and theirs, forever.

End Zone Restaurant Presents Check to DuBard School

Representatives from the End Zone restaurant in Hattiesburg presented a check for $3,570 to the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi on Thursday, June 2. The proceeds came from the End Zone’s annual golf tournament.

Southern Miss Gulf Coast to Host ‘Understanding Cancer’ Conference June 23

The Southern Mississippi Area Health Education Center will host the annual “Coastal MP3C Cancer Control Conference: Understanding Cancer along the Mississippi Gulf Coast” from 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 23.

The free conference is open to the public and will be held in the Fleming Education Center at The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, Miss.