Calendar of Events:

**Southern Miss Homecoming**
October 26, 2013
Southern Miss vs. North Texas

**DuBard School for Language Disorders**
Language Enhancement and Achievement Program, an after-school program for students ages 5–10 with reading, spelling and written language challenges
Enrollment deadline: August 24

**Southern Arena Theatre**
presents *The 39 Steps*
June 20–July 12
Hartwig Theatre and *Arcadia*
June 27–July 14
Tatum Theatre

Dean’s Blog:
Click [here](#) to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.

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**Alumni Spotlight**
Laura Leigh Gottula, LMSW, ACT
Laura Leigh is a Clinical Therapist for Pine Grove’s Child and Adolescent Unit in Hattiesburg where she facilitates and co-facilitates group and family therapy and specialty group therapy focused on chemical addiction. She previously served as Volunteer Coordinator for the Family Network Partnership and a staff member for the Family First Program, both of which are Southern Miss-sponsored programs. Laura Leigh’s career includes a two-year position as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guizhou, China, where she taught English as a second language to college students. Laura Leigh earned a Master’s of Social Work from The University of Southern Mississippi and is a Diplomate of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy.
The meeting was very productive, and College of Health faculty were given assurances of an upcoming revision of the fee schedule to take place by January 2014. This meeting was an extremely important step in assuring the continued provision of critically needed services for the children of our state who are born with and/or acquire hearing impairment.

**Case-Price Named New Director of Children’s Center for Communication and Development**

By Van Arnold

Sarah Case-Price began her affiliation with The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at The University of Southern Mississippi more than a dozen years ago as a student worker. On July 1, she will take over the reins as director.

Case-Price has served in several capacities at the center since becoming a full-time staff member in 2006 – most recently as assistant director. She takes over for acting Director Cindy Bivins, who will continue to help with the center as a volunteer.

“I am extremely excited to be stepping into this role,” said Case-Price. “I hope to lead The Children’s Center in being as influential in early intervention services as my predecessors have done for the past 40 years.”

Case-Price was selected following a national search, with input from a broad cross-section of Center staff and families, the Center Advisory Board, the chair and faculty members of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, the dean of the College of Health and members of the Hattiesburg community.

**College of Health Professors Meet with Medicaid Officials**

Southern Miss College of Health faculty members visited Medicaid and State Capitol officials on June 18, 2013, to discuss reimbursement for audiological services, specifically reimbursement problems with the dispensing of hearing aids.

The inadequate reimbursement rates for hearing aids, earmolds, and hearing aid fitting fees has led a number of providers across the southern region to stop providing these services to the children of south Mississippi. In many instances, providers actually lose income when they choose to provide this service.

Currently, the Audiology Clinic of the Speech and Hearing Department at Southern Miss is the primary provider of this type of service for the southern part of Mississippi. For the Audiology Clinic to continue to provide this much-needed service, it is imperative that reimbursement rates change and keep pace with hearing aid and earmold costs as well as the provision of professional services.

**Dr. Rick Green of the School of Human Performance and Recreation is pictured here with Tyler Edwards, a very recent graduate of the Therapeutic Recreation program, at the Honors College Awards banquet on May 9, 2013. Tyler received an award for the Best Honor’s Thesis from the College of Health. Dr. Green served as Tyler’s academic and thesis advisor. (Submitted photo)**

**The Children’s Center for Communication and Development held its annual Trike-A-Thon on Thursday, April 25 as a fundraiser for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Children from the center were joined in the effort by University Police officers and Southern Miss sorority members. (University Communications photos by Chloe Roux)**

**Standing left to right are: Senator Robert L. Jackson; Edward L. Goshorn, PhD; Kimberly Ward, AuD; C.G. Marx, AuD; Representative Toby Barker and Senator Billy Hudson.**