Downtown Hattiesburg Farmers Market Honors School of Social Work

By Hanna Knowles

The Downtown Hattiesburg Farmers Market honored The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Social Work for its role in founding the market, with a plaque presented during Earth Day celebrations held April 24 at Town Square Park.

Dr. Tim Rehner, director of the School of Social Work, and Dr. Mark Klinedinst, emeritus professor of economics, were instrumental in the formation of the farmers market.

The initial idea for the market originated with after-school programming at the Family Network Partnership (FNP). The partnership is a School of Social Work affiliated, non-traditional community based juvenile delinquency prevention program. At the FNP teen center, children established community gardens in vacant lots. “We thought the children could earn some money if they had a way to sell the produce,” said Rehner. “The idea for the FNP kids to have a produce stand is what started the market.”

Southern Miss Students Earn SCUBA Certification

By Hanna Knowles

Exams do not always involve No. 2 pencils and scantrons, a lesson quickly learned by students enrolled in the School of Human Performance and Recreation’s self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba) course at The University of Southern Mississippi.

At the end of the 2013 spring semester, 11 Southern Miss students piled into a van bound for Vortex Springs, a camping and diving park near Ponce de Leon, Fla., to complete their certification training.

Diving skills learned at the Southern Miss M.C. Johnson Natatorium were put to the test in open water. Basic skills evaluation included navigating by compass and clearing a face mask full of water without surfacing. Emergency ascent and air sharing were some of the emergency procedures tested.

After a three-year hiatus, this is the first group of students to earn their open water diver certification through the Southern Miss program.

Alumni Spotlight

Hannah Sanders, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist at The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at Southern Miss. Hannah serves as a lead teacher in preschool classes for children ages two and up who have a wide variety of disabilities. She enjoys working in the transdisciplinary setting alongside other professionals such as occupational and behavioral therapists. Hannah is beginning to develop areas of interest specifically concerning autism and early language development. As a member of the Honors College at Southern Miss, Hannah graduated summa cum laude with her B.A. (2011) in Speech-Language Pathology with a minor in Deaf Education. She later earned a M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology (2012) from Southern Miss. While a student, Hannah served as a graduate assistant at The Children’s Center for Communication and Development.
Southern Miss seniors majoring in nutrition and food systems participated in a service-learning project for their capstone course.

**Southern Miss Nutrition Students Assist Edwards Street Fellowship Center through Service Learning**

*By Hanna Knowles*

Senior nutrition students at The University of Southern Mississippi recently applied what they learned from shelves of books to help individuals served through shelves of a community food pantry.

In a spring 2014 capstone course, led by Dr. Holly Huye of the College of Health’s Department of Nutrition and Food Systems, students participated in a service-learning project that assisted the Edwards Street Fellowship Center (ESFC).

“The key desired outcomes of the service-learning project included describing the clients that participate in the ESFC programs, identifying nutrition and programming needs, and developing handouts and recipes for ESFC clients,” said Dr. Huye.

The ESFC is a non-profit on the southeast side of Hattiesburg that helps individuals and families with various needs. More than 1,000 families from eight Pine Belt counties are served by its food pantry. The nutrition students helped sort and prepare food for delivery or service, hosted informational tables and conducted interviews and questionnaires.

**DuBard School Director Martin Elected to National Board**

*By Catherine Lott*

Dr. Maureen K. Martin, director of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi, has been elected to serve on the board of directors for the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), a national organization that certifies dyslexia therapists and practitioners.

Martin has served as the director of the DuBard School for 38 years, and has served on many other boards including the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council and more. She worked under the DuBard School founder Dr. Etoile DuBard, has assisted on the development of the DuBard Association Method®, co-authored *Teaching Language-Deficient Children: Theory and Application of the Association Method for Multisensory Teaching* (2000) with Dr. DuBard, and authored the newest edition, *Oral and Written Communication Disorders: Identification and Multisensory Teaching* (2012).

“Serving on the board of directors for an organization like ALTA is a privilege I do not take lightly,” said Martin. “It is the responsibility of the board to ensure the highest standards are maintained in order to best serve the many individuals who are struggling with dyslexia.”

**Southern Miss welcomes inaugural class of new dyslexia therapy master’s program**

*By Catherine Lott*

The University of Southern Mississippi held a welcoming reception for the inaugural class of the new master of education degree in dyslexia therapy on June 2, prior to the start of their first in-person class. This is the first program of its kind in the state of Mississippi offered by a public institution.

A collaboration between the DuBard School for Language Disorders in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Health and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education (CISE) in the College of Education and Psychology, this degree program will prepare graduates to become dyslexia therapists licensed by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).

The program is offered in a hybrid format, offering a mixture of on-campus instruction, online courses, weekend classes and supervised practicum experiences, built around a working professional’s schedule.

“It is exciting to see this program come to fruition,” said Dr. Maureen Martin, director of the DuBard School. “We’ve been working on this degree for approximately four years, ensuring we are able to provide the highest quality education in a format fitted for working professionals.”

**Members of the inaugural class of the new master of education degree in dyslexia therapy show off t-shirts they received during a reception held Monday, June 2 at the DuBard School for Language Disorders.**

**DuBard School recently hosted a 5K run/walk and chose to give the proceeds to DuBard School.**

**The Sunrise Rotary Club of Hattiesburg presented the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi, has been elected to serve on the board of directors for the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), a national organization that certifies dyslexia therapists and practitioners.**

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**Dr. Maureen Martin**

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