The College of Health

The 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!

May, 2012

IHL Board Approves School of Nursing’s Return to College of Nursing
By Van Arnold

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved a proposal to restore the School of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi to college status during its monthly meeting April 19 in Jackson. The change becomes official on July 1.

“The designation of a College of Nursing will substantially enhance the university’s commitment to engage members of the Southern Miss family and their areas of interest to invest in transforming lives and communities through the promotion of health, dissemination of research and the education of health care providers,” said [Dr. Katherine] Nugent.

Butler Snow Foundation Awards Grant to Southern Miss Children’s Center
By Van Arnold

The Butler, Snow, O’Mara, Stevens & Cannada (Butler Snow) Foundation has awarded a $25,751 grant to The University of Southern Mississippi Children’s Center for Communication and Development for its project focusing on Early Intervention, Literacy and School Readiness for Young Children with Significant Disabilities.

“The USM Children’s Center for Communication and Development creates programs that significantly enrich the lives of its participants and the community it serves, so we are very honored to support this project,” said Foundation chair and Butler Snow attorney Thomas E. Williams.

Southern Miss Prepares Groundwork for Nurse Anesthesia Program
By Van Arnold

The School of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi will soon take a giant leap in healthcare education and training by offering the state’s first degree-granting nurse anesthesia program.

The new program will include 36 consecutive months of study and award a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. School of Nursing officials hope to receive final approval from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs in October with classes set to begin in January 2013.

“The benefit of this type of program to residents of Mississippi is access to an in-state nurse anesthesia program which will eliminate out-of-state tuition expenses,” said Dr. Vickie Stuart, nurse anesthesia program director and assistant clinical professor at Southern Miss.

“The nurse anesthesia program will benefit Southern Miss by strengthening the partnerships between the university and the health community.”

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course
June 4th-8th, 8:00am-5:00pm
DuBard School, Hattiesburg

DuBard Association Method® Practicum
June 4th-28th

Mississippi Strength and Conditioning Clinic
Saturday, June 9th
Hosted by School of Human Performance and Recreation
Pre-registration required by May 26th

Dean’s Blog
Click here to see updated blog posts from the dean, Dr. Michael Forster.

College of Health Alumni Spotlight

Ms. Kristi Plotner, LCSW, is a 1998 Master of Social Work graduate from Southern Miss. She currently serves as the Director of Policy, Planning and Development for the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. She implemented the Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC) program in 2008, and B2I to demonstrate an institutional level of care transitions for the mentally challenged. She received the 2008 Mississippi Children’s Home Services public partner award and the 2011 Arc of Mississippi Professional of the Year award, among others. Ms. Plotner also currently serves as the chair of the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.
Southern Miss Alumnus Tudor Showing Leadership with Texas Healthcare

By Ryan Kelly

As health care management continues to rank as an important element in the world of health, University of Southern Mississippi graduates are excelling in the field with innovation and leadership.

One such alumnus is Nathan Tudor, CEO of Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital in Kennedy, Texas. Tudor’s position at the 25-bed, 140 employee Otto Kaiser Memorial is significant, but his roles with health management are equally important as he owns a track record of success and leadership.

DuBard School Accepting Applications for LEAP Program

By Kathryn McPhail

If you have a child, or know of one, who is struggling with reading, writing or spelling, then The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi has a special summer program that can help. The DuBard School is currently accepting applications for its unique Language Enhancement and Achievement Program (LEAP) which will be held June 4-July 12 on the Hattiesburg campus. The out-client program is designed specifically for children who:

Hattiesburg Clinic Supports DuBard School, School of Nursing

By Amy Martin

A $100,000 commitment to The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation from Hattiesburg Clinic will help fund the DuBard School for Language Disorders’ 50th Anniversary Campaign and the School of Nursing Building Campaign at Southern Miss. “Hattiesburg Clinic is pleased to support the DuBard School and the School of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi,” said Tommy Thornton, executive director of Hattiesburg Clinic. “These two areas are important, not only in providing education in health care-related fields, but they improve the quality of life for residents of South Mississippi.” The gift from Hattiesburg Clinic will be split equally between the two initiatives.

“This gift affirms the forward-thinking leadership role of Hattiesburg Clinic in the regional health services community,” said Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health at Southern Miss. “Hattiesburg Clinic is an exemplary partner and friend of the College and the University.”

College of Health Honors Faculty, Staff at Annual Awards Banquet

The University of Southern Mississippi College of Health held its annual Faculty and Staff Award Banquet on Thursday, April 26. The faculty and staff award recipients are as follows:

- E.D. Kenna, Sr. Award – Dr. Charkara Anderson-Lewis, Community Health
- Distinguished Alumni Award – Dr. Maureen K. Martin, Speech and Hearing Sciences
- Outstanding Faculty Service Award – Dr. Tim Rehner, Social Work
- Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award – Dr. Wendy Bounds Stinson, Nutrition and Food Systems
- Distinguished Teaching Award – Dr. Rowena Elliott, Nursing
- Emerging Scholar Faculty Award — Dr. Alicia Sample, Nutrition and Food Systems
- Distinguished Researcher Award — Dr. Jerome Kolbo, Social Work
- Outstanding Professional Staff Award — Ms. Jennifer Downey, Dean’s Office
- Distinguished Office Professional Award — Mrs. Martha Resavy, Nutrition and Food Systems
- Distinguished Mentor Award — Ms. Delories Williams, Social Work

Simmons, a doctor of audiology student in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, is one of only eight students selected out of hundreds of applications for the American Academy of Audiology’s new student division. In this position, she has an opportunity to network with top professionals from across the nation, as well as assist with creation and implementation of policy and regulation for audiologists in the country.