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.

September, 2011

Public Health Symposium Focuses on Global Health

By Ryan Kelly

From environmental changes to emerging diseases, global health presents a major challenge to the world of public health. This theme is the focus of the 11th annual Public Health Symposium, sponsored by the Department of Community Health Sciences and the Southern Mississippi Area Health Education Center (SMAHEC).

The global health theme will include topics of climate change, food safety, emerging world diseases, and the epidemic of bed bugs, among others. The Public Health Symposium includes distinguished speakers on a range of topics for the education of students, faculty, and community members on issues in health. Gina Fiorentini-Wright, instructor in Community Health Sciences, says that “It is important for our students to understand all of the various types of fields available to them, and for the students to have an awareness of issues in today’s society in global health.”

This year’s symposium will be held on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses. The Hattiesburg campus event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12 in the Thad Cochran Center Ballroom. The symposium on the Gulf Park campus will take place from 8 a.m. until noon on Thursday, November 3, in the Fleming Education Center Auditorium.

Featured speakers include Dr. Maureen Lichtveld, Freeport McMoRan Chair of Environmental Policy at Tulane University; Dr. Brigid Elchos, Deputy State Veterinarian with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health; Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Entomologist for the Mississippi State Department of Health; and others. A time of question and answer will also be provided at the conclusion of each speaker’s presentation.

Director of the SMAHEC, Stacey Curry, describes the event as, “an excellent opportunity for Southern Miss faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members, to gain knowledge about current issues in global health.”

The symposium is free of charge. For more information, contact the Gina Fiorentini-Wright at 601.266.4839.

Children’s Center Puts the “Gold” in Black and Gold

Article by Jayne Batrouos

With the help of Lights Jewelers Gemologist of Hattiesburg, The Children’s Center for Communication and Development at Southern Miss is putting the “gold” in “black and gold.” For a $10 raffle ticket, that supports The Children’s Center’s work with young children who have disabili-
ties, ticket holders get a chance to win a grand prize, “a magnificent ring containing one large oval citrine flanked by a matched pair of shimmering round citrines, accented with 38 round diamonds in a gleaming hand-carved 14K yellow gold setting, valued at $1,250.” Citrine is the November birthstone. And as they say on television, “That’s not all.” Other great prizes include Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr., signed and numbered wildlife prints, a tree stand harness, and Mississippi wildlife photograph note cards, all donated by The Mississippi Wildlife Federation; a $100 gift certificate donated by Purple Parrot/Crescent City/Mahogany Bar; a $100 gift certificate donated by Tabella; three pair of admission tickets to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science; and a signed Southern Miss team baseball.

Tickets will be on sale at local retailers including Lights Jewelers, Heritage Vision, Newk’s Restaurant and Designing Hair Salon. The drawing is scheduled for December 2 at Lights Jewelers.

To purchase tickets or for more information about The Children’s Center, call 601.266.5222.

Southern Miss Graduate Discovers Voice with Unconventional Poem

Article by Van Arnold

Small towns throughout modest states like Mississippi often produce big dreamers – like University of Southern Mississippi graduate Megan Keyes. Except in Keyes’ case, the Taylorsville, Miss., native learned that she simply had not been dreaming on a large enough scale. A senior capstone project in Sport Coaching Education opened her eyes to that life-changing reality.

With tutelage from Dr. Brian Gearity, assistant professor in the School of Human Performance and Recreation at Southern Miss, Keyes composed an autobiographical poem/performance piece titled, “Narratives of Sport Pedagogies: The Poetic Representation of Life Beyond Dreams.” After wowing Gearity and her classmates with the poem, Keyes drew rave reviews from attendees at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Champagne, Ill.

DuBard Association Method® Basic Course Available in September, October

Article by Vanessa Moulden

The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi will host the DuBard Association Method® Basic Course Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 18-20 from 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus.

The course is open to teachers in general and special education kindergarten through second grade, teachers of individuals with learning disabilities, reading specialists and speech-language pathologists.

Preaching a Healthy Diet in the Deep-Fried Delta

Dr. Michael Minor and the Healthy Congregations Coalition are reducing obesity in Northwest Mississippi, one sermon at a time. This article was recently published by the New York Times, and is a must-read for anyone in health prevention. Healthy Congregations was developed through the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.