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By Catherine Lott

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Obesity Rates on the Decline Among Elementary Aged Students in Mississippi
By Layla Essary

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DuBard School Now Enrolling for After-School Program Targeting Dyslexia

By Catherine Lott

The DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi is currently enrolling for an after-school program to serve young struggling readers.

The Language Enhancement and Achievement Program (LEAP) is designed for students ages 5 through 10 with challenges in reading, spelling and written language, who may or may not have a diagnosis of dyslexia.

The after-school program includes three one-hour sessions per week available in the fall, spring and summer semesters. Services are provided in small-group settings by paraprofessionals with extensive backgrounds in scientifically based reading approaches.

“Providing children with the reading tools they need to succeed is one of the primary goals of LEAP,” said Daphne Cornett, assistant director of the DuBard School and LEAP coordinator. “Providing children with the reading tools they need to succeed is one of the primary goals of LEAP. We help students build their reading and writing skills so they are able to establish a strong foundation.”

Southern Miss Professor Receives National Institutes of Health Grant

By Van Arnold

Dr. Shahid Karim, associate professor of biological sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi, has received a three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study the disease-transmitting agents present in ticks and other blood-feeding anthropod vectors.

Karim points out that the $439,500 grant will fund research that could one day produce a better awareness of how the vector antioxidant factors can be manipulated to prevent vector-borne diseases. Understanding the interactions between vector and rickettsial agents might help in developing strategies to combat anthropod-borne infections.

Southern Miss’ Hobart Selected for NIRSA Committee Chair Position

By Stephanie Patterson

Jessica Hobart, recreational sports assistant director for aquatics and outdoors at The University of Southern Mississippi, has been reappointed as the chair of the Career Opportunities Center Committee for the 2012-2013 year for the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA).

While interning at the NIRSA National Center, Hobart was charged with running the Career Opportunities Center at the 2010 NIRSA Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif. She served as a member on the COC Committee during the 2010-2011 year, after which she was then nominated and served as the COC Committee Chair during the 2011-2012 year.

“I am excited for the opportunity to continue chairing the COC Committee and am looking forward to the co-location of the 2013 NIRSA/ American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nev.,” Hobart said.

Southern Miss’ McGee Serves as Umpire in Prestigious Softball Event

Article by Van Arnold

McGee joined four other umpires from North America to officiate Border Battle IV, a men’s slow pitch event held June 30 at the Amateur Softball Association of America Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.