College of Health Newsletter

Mississippi's Health, Mississippi's Future
College of Health Forum Series 2013

Baby Boomers - How are we going to care for all of these people?
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 | 5:30 p.m. | Thad Cochran Center
There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be served.
Sponsored by Hattiesburg Clinic

In honor of Alzheimer's Awareness month, the Hattiesburg Clinic’s Neurological Research Center and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health are hosting a series of educational events for the Hattiesburg community. The Southern Miss College of Health is serving as a marketing partner for these events.

The events include free memory screenings, Experiencing Alzheimer’s—a virtual tour, and an Eat Free Lunch & Learn About Alzheimer’s.

The memory screenings and Lunch & Learn event will be at Forrest General Hospital on Nov. 6. Memory screenings will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the conference rooms near the cafeteria. Screenings take approximately 15 minutes.

The Lunch & Learn will be in the cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The virtual tour will be at Hattiesburg Clinic’s main clinic on Nov. 8. Participants can choose one of four sessions. The sessions are to be held from 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.; 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.; and 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Students from the Southern Miss Kinesiotherapy program and the College of Health Ambassadors will serve as volunteer staff for the tour.

Online registration for the Lunch & Learn and Virtual tour is available after October 7 at www.hattiesburgclinic.com. For more information or to register, call 601.268.5606.

Alzheimer’s Awareness Educational Events
Memory Screenings and Lunch & Learn
November 6, 2013
Forrest General Hospital Cafeteria

Virtual Tour
November 8, 2013
Hattiesburg Clinic

Dean’s Blog:
Click here to see updated posts from Dr. Michael Forster.

Alumni Spotlight
Sarah Pachmayr
A native of Centreville, MS, Sarah graduated from Southern Miss with a B.S. in Medical Technology in December 2007 and a Master of Public Health in Health Services Administration in May 2013. While enrolled in the Executive Master of Public Health program, Sarah was recognized for having the highest GPA and best capstone project. Sarah worked at Singing River Hospital March 2008–July 2013 and also part-time at the University of Alabama Children’s and Women's Hospital December 2007–July 2013. Sarah has been accepted into the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine with an anticipated graduation date of May 2017. Sarah is a recipient of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship.
Southern Miss Dedicates Pedestrian Plaza to First African-American Students

By David Tisdale

Nearly 50 years ago, Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong Chamberlain and Raylawni Branch showed up for class in the fall of 1965 at The University of Southern Mississippi as the school’s first African-American students.

On Friday, Sept. 6 the two returned to be honored for their important place in the institution’s history with the dedication of Armstrong-Branch Plaza, located between the Liberal Arts Building and Joseph Green Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. Southern Miss President Rodney Bennett and Southern District Transportation Commissioner Tom King, a Southern Miss alum, were among the dignitaries on hand for the event.

Joining Dr. Bennett and King in leading the dedication and ribbon cutting for the plaza were Southern Miss President Emeritus Aubrey Lucas and Vice President for Student Affairs Joe Paul.

The plaza, funded in part through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), includes brick paving, decorative lighting, benches, bike racks, trash receptacles and emergency call stations. The project is ADA-compliant and features landscaping and irrigation along the corridor.

Dr. Bennett praised the two for their bravery and determination in doing something “splendidly extraordinary” by engaging in what is now an ordinary act for many, regardless of the color of their skin – attending college. “They forever changed the USM story,” he said.

In his invocation, Lucas said what Chamberlain and Branch did in bringing a legacy of diversity to the university taught the Southern Miss family “how to love our alma mater unconditionally.”

“I’m so very pleased and very proud to have been a part of the university’s history,” Armstrong said. “It warms my heart to see the giant steps that the university has made since September of 1965.”

Sertoma Club of Hattiesburg Makes Donation to Speech and Hearing Sciences

The Sertoma Club of Hattiesburg recently contributed $1,900 to the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences’ (SHS) development fund. Sertoma Club President David Bounds presented the check to Dr. Steven Cloud, chair of the department.

“Sertoma’s primary focus is to assist people with hearing issues and to educate the public about communication disorders,” said Dr. Cloud. “The local chapter has done a great deal to support the SHS department, the DuBard School for Language Disorders, and The Children’s Center for Communication and Development.”

Southern Miss Hattiesburg Campus Bustling with Construction Projects

By Van Arnold

Whether it be the demolition of aging residence halls; the renovation of facilities or breaking ground on new buildings, the Hattiesburg campus has seldom seen a busier time for construction-related projects. To date a total of 23 projects are in progress, scheduled to begin, or recently completed, with an estimated cost of approximately $149 million.

Contributions from the University’s alumni and friends have helped get many of these projects off the ground. “If not for the generosity of our alumni and friends, we would simply not be experiencing the incredible growth as it relates to vitally important building projects on our campus,” said USM Foundation Executive Director Shannon Fleming. “The funds generated through private gifts, along with support through state funding, have allowed us to move forward at different stages with projects that will continue the transformation of the USM campus under the leadership and vision of President Rodney Bennett. Donors to the USM Foundation are continuing to change the lives of our students through their generosity.”

Southern Miss President Rodney Bennett, back left, joins Raylawni Branch, front left, Gwendolyn Armstrong Chamberlain, front right, and President Emeritus Aubrey Lucas for the unveiling of the Armstrong-Branch Plaza. (Photo by Kelly Dunn)

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Scott Hall on the Southern Miss campus was recently demolished to make room for a new housing complex named Century Park South. (University Communications photo by Van Arnold)