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!

March, 2012

Calendar of Events:

The Children’s Center for Communication and Development Capitol Day
Tuesday, March 20th
Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Mississippi State Capitol Building

The Affordable Care Act: A Compacted Review and the Legalities of Its Survival
Thursday, March 22nd
6:00 - 7:45 p.m.
Thad Cochran Center Ballroom I
Hattiesburg campus
*CEU opportunities available

Poverty and Its Impact on Health: Causation or Correlation?
Thursday, April 12th
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Fleming Education Center
Gulf Park campus

The Color Dash 5k Run
Date: April 14th
Sponsored by Student Association of Social Workers

A Night in Italy, Sponsored by the Hattiesburg Rotary Club
Tuesday, April 17th
Southern Oaks House and Gardens, Hattiesburg
Proceeds benefit The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

Dean’s Blog

Click here to see updated blog posts from the dean, Dr. Michael Forster.

Nutrition Honors Supporters with Foods Lab Naming
By Ryan Kelly

Two special supporters were honored recently for their contributions to renovation of the foods laboratory in the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Southern Miss alumni Dale and Janet Shearer were saluted during a reception last month to unveil the new 1,384-square foot lab located on the first floor of Fritzsch-Gibbs Hall. The lab, which serves as a teaching classroom, provides a functional space for hands-on training of more than 100 students each year.

The laboratory was renovated during the summer of 2011, upgrading its countertops and appliances, including state-of-the-art ventilation hoods with fire-suppressant sprinkler-heads. The Shearers were recognized with a plaque that hangs in the laboratory.

Dale Shearer graduated from Southern Miss in 1987 with a bachelor’s degree in English, and currently serves as an attorney with Copeland, Cook, Taylor and Bush in Ridgeland, Mississippi. He is involved with the University as a member of the Golden Eagle Advocacy Network, and the Southern Miss Alumni Association’s board of directors, including his current role as president-elect.

Janet Shearer earned her master’s degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in Food and Nutrition in 1990 from Southern Miss. She has served Mississippi as a registered dietitian, making important contributions regarding insurance coverage for nutrition care as well as in identifying special nutrition needs such as the assessment of home care patients and nutrition related to HIV. She is also an accomplished oil painter.

For more information regarding the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems, call 601.266.5377.

College of Health at the State Capitol
By Ryan Kelly

The University of Southern Mississippi participated in Capitol Day with the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning on Tuesday, February 28 at the Mississippi State Capitol. The College of Health was honored to take part in this event, representing Southern Miss with both the School of Nursing and the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems.

The School of Nursing had a very popular setup with the demonstration of a “sim-baby,” which is currently used in the nursing simulation laboratory. The robotic device simulates desired diagnostic readings and mechanical functions of a child and allows nursing students to react under a controlled setting. The School of Nursing also had the opportunity to inform legislators of the new building campaign, which will require a degree of state-funded support in order to become a reality.

College of Health Alumni Spotlight
Mr. Gary Marchand, ’08

Gary Marchand is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Hospital at Gulfport. Marchand has more than 25 years of health care experience...20 of those years with Memorial Hospital. Marchand received his Masters of Public Health from Southern Miss in 2008. He is actively involved in multiple professional organizations, including Chairman of the VHA Gulf States Board of Directors, Co-Chairman the College of Health Dean’s Council, and a member of the new MPH Alumni Group.
The Department of Nutrition and Food Systems was able to win over lawmakers with nutritious snacks, prepared by students in the department. The students purchased raw ingredients and prepared food for all who visited the table. Students and faculty were also able to speak to lawmakers about the universities focus on healthy eating and the need for a state-wide focus on proper nutrition.

Southern Miss Area Health Education Center to Participate in Veterans Project
By Van Arnold

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Southern Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is one of only 16 priority sites selected to initiate a national pilot program targeting the behavioral/mental health needs of returning veterans.

The project is supported by a grant from the Federal Health Resources and Service Administration in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

“It is an honor to be selected to have a role in advancing critical mental and behavioral health services for our returning veterans,” said Stacey Curry, director of the Southern AHEC. “South Mississippi is considered a high priority area in the implementation of this program due to its high concentration of military families per overall population.”

The Southern AHEC will work in conjunction with the Southwest AHEC—another university affiliate—on continuing education training for civilian health professionals in 21 Mississippi counties.

Want to learn more about the AHECs at Southern Miss? View the attached flyer.

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Southern Miss Speech and Hearing Science Professor Wins Award
By Ryan Kelly

Dr. Charles G. Marx, professor of audiology in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi, was recently chosen as the 2011 recipient of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Mississippi Clinical Achievement Award.

This award recognizes demonstrated contributions to the advancement of knowledge in clinical practice in speech-language pathology and audiology.

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Southern Miss participates in national therapeutic recreation month
By Ryan Kelly

The Southern Miss School of Human Performance and Recreation’s therapeutic recreation program received a proclamation from Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPree on Feb. 7 declaring February 2012 as Therapeutic Recreation Month in Hattiesburg, Miss.

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Dr. Michael Forster, dean of the College of Health, wins the “Crowd Favorite Award” at the first annual Dancing with the Deans. The event was held by the USM Foundation as a kick-off to a faculty/staff giving campaign.

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Office of Provost Names Faculty Recipients of Research Support, Honors
By David Tisdale

The University of Southern Mississippi Office of the Provost recently announced members of its faculty as recipients of various prestigious grants and honors. Excellence in instruction, research, leadership, mentorship, librarianship and service to the university were among the key criteria used in selection of the recipients.

“We’re pleased to recognize and reward these members of our faculty who have given so much for the betterment of the university,” said Dr. Denis Wiesenburg, vice president for research and interim provost. “They are outstanding teachers, researchers and leaders.”

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