Message from the Dean, Dr. Rick Talbott

Greetings from the University of South Alabama’s Pat Capps College of Allied Health Professions. I am hopeful that everyone’s new year is off to a smooth start and am happy to report that we are enjoying the annual excitement of welcoming new students, greeting returning students, and launching another exciting academic year. This year we will see several changes in both faculty and administrative positions in the college. Due to retirements and the creation of new faculty positions, searches are underway for faculty positions in almost all of our eight departments as well as for Department Chairs in the Radiologic Sciences and Biomedical Sciences Departments. Both our Associate Dean and I will be retiring this year as well, and searches for these positions are also under way. The college continues to enjoy great support from the university and is well positioned to move forward with new leadership and continued excellence in its faculty and students.

As you can see from the reports from the departments, our faculty continues to provide excellent educational and clinical preparation for our students and we are very pleased with the continued almost 100% employment rates of our graduates. This of course is due to the quality of the graduates and their top percentile scores on national and state qualifying exams. In support of our faculty, our alumni have been very generous and supportive of our programs through scholarship endowments and other development support of the College. We appreciate all you do to maintain the high quality of programs at South Alabama and are pleased to bring you the updates included herein from our departments and offer our best wishes for the coming year. We also look forward to hearing from our graduates and colleagues across the country and would invite your contact if we can be of any service. Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy year.

Rick Talbott, Ph.D. rtalbott@southalabama.edu

Message from the Associate Dean

There are many reasons to be proud of being part of the Pat Capps Covey College Allied Health Professions. This fall, the number of students registered in our programs is close to 1500.

We know that students who enter our college as freshman are more likely to complete a program from USA than any other group of freshman students. Yet, we are involved in several efforts to further increase retention.

Two new activities designed to address retention include the creation of a new Interprofessional Freshman Seminar which involves about 130 students from a variety of pre-health programs. The course includes presentations from professional in most health disciplines and direct involvement of advanced undergraduates who serve as peer leaders and moderators in small group discussions. The feedback we received from those students was very good and we are repeating the course this fall.

The university has purchased access to the Student Success Collaborative, a new tool designed to improve student success in college. This database uses data from the past 10 years to predict student success based on their performance in key courses. The information allows our advisors to help our students make educated choices in terms of their career path.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. If any of your classmates (current or former) does not receive The Crucible, please let us know so we can add their email address to our mailing list.

Julio F. Turrens, Ph.D. jturtle@southalabama.edu
MESSAGE FROM MORGAN SEELEY COOPER, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Over the past year, I have enjoyed working with the faculty and staff within the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health. Their commitment to providing outstanding education and training to students was truly evident in the enthusiasm and generosity of the alumni I’ve had the pleasure of meeting throughout the year. I am pleased to share that this expression of overwhelming support from our alumni, faculty, and friends resulted in the creation of seven named endowed scholarships. Generous gifts such as these are essential in attracting the best students, rewarding them for high academic achievement while in the program, and relieving the financial burden upon graduation. Your involvement and support can enrich the College’s current programs, ensure increased education opportunities for our students, and assist many individuals in realizing their dream of becoming a healthcare professional. For more information regarding how you can support the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions in the form of a private gift contribution, please contact me directly at mscooper@southalabama.edu or 251.414.8065.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DR. WILLIAM B. DAVIS

We are into the fall semester of 2015, and BMD continues to be a solid major. The program has 484 majors, dropping under 500 for the first time in five years. We have 168 freshmen, down from 202 last year, but we continue to recruit the best and brightest. Currently, 38 out of 56 students in the Early Acceptance Program (EAP) to the College of Medicine are Biomedical Sciences majors. We also have 11 freshmen coming into the University Honors Program, and six students working on their Honors Thesis in Biomedical Sciences. BMD graduates continue to enter post baccalaureate health programs in large numbers. At least 19 of the 40 Spring 15 and two of the eight Fall 14 graduates have done so already, and we continue to receive a steady stream of success stories from previous graduates.

The department was sad to see the retirement of Dr. Davis, but we hope many fish find his hook in the years to come. We welcome as our interim chair Dr. Julio Turrens.

IN THE NEWS

University Nominee for Barry Goldwater Scholarship

BMD major Angela McGaugh was selected by the University Nominating Committee as one of only four students to be nominated from the University for the national Barry Goldwater Scholarship competition.

Pat Capps Covey Biomedical Sciences Scholarship

The recipients of the Patsy Capps Covey Biomedical Sciences Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year are: Jonathan Bui, Rosa Gomez-Rosario, Ashley Shows, Cade Watson, and Kendall Williams. These students are upper division Biomedical Science majors. Applications for this scholarship are accepted during the spring semester and are awarded to the students the following fall semester toward tuition and fees.

UCUR Summer Research Program

Saad Alshareedah worked in the Summer and Fall 2014 in Dr. Padma Thulasiraman’s lab through the UCUR Volunteer Program; Gerald Galen Garriga worked in Dr. Padma Thulasiraman’s lab during the Summer of 2015 through the UCUR Volunteer Program; Anu Pandit worked in the Summer and Fall 2014 in Dr. Mike Spector’s lab through the UCUR Volunteer Program; Jordan Harrison worked with Dr. John Shelley-Tremblay in the Psychology Department; Benjamin Jackson worked with Dr. Alexandra Stenson in the Chemistry Department; Michael Marfice worked with Dr. Natalie Bauer in the Pharmacology Department & Center for Lung Biology, College of Medicine (COM); Angela McGaugh worked with Dr. David Wood and Dr. Aimee Tucker in the Microbiology and Immunology Department, COM; Janice Smith worked with Dr. Seema Singh in the Oncologic Sciences Department, Mitchell Cancer Institute; Noelle Smolic worked with Dr. Eugene Cioffi in the Pharmacology Department, COM.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS


**FACULTY AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**


Dr. Terry Ravine & Mrs. Sally Bru presented the following poster: Brewer PS, Ravine TJ, Bru SE. Do Heating Appliances Used to Create Patient Thermoplastic Immobilization Devices Pose an Inherent Risk of Infection? 22nd Annual Graduate Research Forum, University of South Alabama, March 2015.


* Best Paper Award went to BMD major Andrea E. Butts at the symposium.

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

Ms. Patricia Brewer (Radiologic Sciences), Ms. Sally Bru (Biomedical Sciences Retired) and Dr. Terry Ravine (Biomedical Sciences) were selected as the recipients of the prestigious Harold Silverman Distinguished Author Award for 2014 by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). A $1,000 cash award was shared equally between the authors for their journal article: Brewer PS, Ravine TJ, Bru SE. Risk of Patient Infection From Heating Appliances Used to Produce Thermoplastic Immobilization Devices. Radiation Therapist, Fall 2014; 23(2):125-35.

The following faculty members were designated by a student sponsor for the “Top Prof” award by the Mortar Board Honor Society for 2014-2015: Kari Dugger, Robin J. Mockett, Padma Thulasiraman, Julio F. Turrens.

Dr. Swiger was selected to be a part of the first cohort of the Active Learning Initiative at South Alabama (ALISA). During the coming academic year, he will work closely with faculty from the Innovation and Learning Center (ILC) as well as with other faculty selected to be in the cohort. The mission of ALISA is to improve student competencies, academic success, and retention by increasing student engagement in coursework through active learning strategies. Dr. Swiger will receive $10,000 towards the design and implementation of these strategies. See more at: http://southalabama.edu/departments/ilc/alisa.html#sthash.7YwVF5d0.dpuf

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**Cardiorespiratory Care**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, MR. WILLIAM WOJCIECHOWSKI**

Hello Alumni! Another fall semester is upon us, and twenty-six junior students have entered the Cardiorespiratory Care program. That is the largest fall enrollment in the history of this program. The program faculty remains busy as ever. At the 2014 AARC International Congress, Tim Op’T Holt received the Mike West award from the American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF) recognizing him for excellence in patient education for his work at the Victory Health Partners pulmonary clinic. Tim received this national award for being a respiratory therapist who has had a profound impact on the education of patients. Under Tim’s leadership, the department faculty and students have been working with asthma and COPD patients for the past 12 years. Another service has been added through the Victory Health pulmonary clinic to diagnose and treat patients who have obstructive sleep apnea. After paying $90.00 for an interface and tubing, patients are given a self-titrating CPAP recorder to trend their nocturnal breathing and OSA patterns. Dr. Jet Broughton reads the recorded sleep data and prescribes a CPAP level when the diagnosis of OSA is made. Patients then receive a free CPAP unit for treatment of their OSA. David Chang and I recently attended a weeklong smoking treatment workshop in New Orleans. Attendance at this workshop is the initial step toward acquiring certification as a tobacco treatment specialist (CTTS). Starting this October, David and I will offer ongoing smoking treatment programs. This service is an extension of the services offered by the Victory Health pulmonary clinic. We are proud to offer these community services. As alumni of South Alabama, you are invited to participate in this effort. Please call 445-9284 to find out how you can help. Bill Pruitt has been elected President of the Association of Asthma Educators for 2016, and also remains active speaking at various state meetings. Please remain in communication with us. We would like to hear from you concerning how your career has developed. Take care.

Regards,

Bill Wojciechowsky: wwojiec@southalabama.edu
Emergency Medical Services

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, MR. CHARLES ERWIN

Growing Programs:

After forty-three years, the Department of EMS Education has witnessed many exciting changes. While on the Brookley campus this department focused on one task and that was the training of Paramedics. The department has expanded the scope of our educational programs by offering bachelor’s degrees in both Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Professional Health Sciences (PHS). As a result of our degree expansion, our department has enjoyed an increase in student population from 50 to 60 students to over 600 students in 2015. Even with this expanded mission, the department has not forgotten its roots. We still offer the Basic EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic programs.

BS / EMS Degree Program:

As the program continues to grow, we are pleased to announce that this degree program was approved in May 2013 by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), validating our bachelor’s degree in EMS. Of the twenty-four institutions in the nation offering an EMS baccalaureate degree, our program is the third largest. The BS in EMS is maintaining high enrollment with 195 students in 2015. Information on the Bachelor’s Degree in the Emergency Medical Services program is located at www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems or contact Ronald Morgan, BS Program Director remorgan@southalabama.edu.

BS / Professional Health Sciences Degree Program:

Our department is the home for the Professional Health Sciences Degree program. This program is designed for students who wish to have a well rounded background in health sciences, but do not wish to pursue a specific professional degree. This degree path also allows students in pre-professional programs that have changed their mind about specific professional degree programs to apply most of their course credits towards another degree. The program provides broad information in health-related disciplines and also in health informatics. Graduates from this program should be suited to work in the hospital setting, health insurance companies, pharmaceuticals, long-term care facilities, administrative assistants to hospital managers, physician offices, or health informatics technicians. The degree offers two tracks to choose from: Healthcare Informatics or Health Care Management. This exciting degree path has grown from 341 students in 2014 to 423 students in 2015. We are delighted that three of our recent graduates have been accepted into the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program here at South Alabama. Information on the program is located at www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems and Academic Advising at 251-445-9260.

EMS Certificate Program:

Our certificate programs continue to maintain acceptable numbers. The three certificate programs include: EMT (one semester), AEMT (one semester), and Paramedic (three semesters). The National EMS Education Standards have now been fully implemented and the second cohort took their national certification examinations in December and accomplished an 88% first time pass rate, which is above the national average of 76%. This program is maintaining expected enrollment with 46 students in 2015. Beginning in the Fall of 2015 this department started its first shift based cohort that was built to accommodate working adults who are already in EMS or the Fire Service. Information on the program is located at www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems or contact Jason Brooks, Program Director jbrooks@southalabama.edu.

Alabama Gulf EMS System (ADPH EMS Region 6):

AGEMSS has been awarded our tenth contract with the Alabama Department of Public Health to serve as the regional agency for the seven southwest counties: Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington. This year’s contract is $222,622 with the ten year total of $2,326,819.00. The region must continue to maintain the trauma system; establish a stroke and STEMI system, and continue our quality improvement plan. The Alabama Gulf EMS System has been the leader in the progression of EMS policy and education in the state by developing and successfully gaining approval from the Alabama State Board of Health for a heparin pilot study with Medstar EMS, Cardiology Associates, and Thomas Hospital (ongoing for the second year). The region has also been tasked with the development and implementation of the state STEMI and stroke plans. The region has entered into agreements with the USA Human Simulation Department and invested in the development of human simulation labs in the Department of EMS as well as two mobile simulation labs. The region has also been very active in continuing education by providing education for greater than 1800 regional EMS personnel. Additional information on the program is located at www.southalabama.edu/ alliedhealth/ems or contact David Garmon, Executive Director dgarmon@southalabama.edu or agemss@southalabama.edu

Department of EMS’s Continued Commitment to Service:

Our commitment to the university and the local community continues to be very strong as we have five of our faculty who serve as paramedics for the Jaguar football team, which has saved the athletic department thousands of dollars by donating our expertise in emergency service to the team during summer camps and football games. We were able to fill our vacant faculty position with an outstanding new faculty member, Kristen McKenna, and we were also able to add an additional faculty member, Jonathan Powell, as a result of initiating the new shift based cohort. We also continue to offer free CPR classes to local school teachers, most recently we have provided education and certification to Grand Bay Middle School and Baldwin County Christian School, and we also offer an annual free CPR class to the staff and faculty of the University.

Charlie O. Erwin; cerwin@southalabama.edu
Occupational Therapy

**MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR, DR. DONNA WOOSTER**

Once again, I find myself excited with the start of a new academic year. I have served as interim chair for just about one year now so I think I have done most duties at least once. The Department of Occupational Therapy continues to evolve. Dr. Scaffa and I are still leading the team as we continue to strive for excellence. I am happy to report the Class of 2015 received a 100% pass rate from NBCOT. Yeah! for USA OT Program. We know that it takes a village to run a quality program like this. We feel blessed and are so thankful that so many of our alumni and area occupational therapists are always willing to help us out in so many ways. We really could not do it without the support of the healthcare community. Thank you to each and every one who has supervised an OT student, given a guest lecture, assisted in a lab, and in any way contributed to our program. We so appreciate your help. Dr. Scaffa is knee deep in her grant with our Department of Nursing. Dr. Donna Wooster is now working on some internal grants. One is for project TIPP which will promote helping allied health students achieve excellence in working with children with autism. We will have our kick off conference on Jan. 30, 2016. OT, PT, and ST students will work collaboratively as a team, to problem solve effective evidence-based treatments for a variety of individuals with autism. We are so excited to be partnering with the USA Center for Autism for this event. Another grant is dedicated to helping allied health and nursing students understand the roles of health care providers with elderly clients and to probe for answers to their complex needs. It’s exciting to be working with so many other professionals to meet the needs of many of our students.

The Occupational Therapy Department is now actively engaging our students in research projects that they start and follow through over three semesters. We were fortunate to have many of our students present at national conference. The Department of Occupational Therapy continues to fulfill its mission by providing quality education in occupational therapy, contributing to the scholarship of the profession and improving the health and quality of life of people in the community through service.

Dr. Donna Wooster; dawooster@southalabama.edu

**PART TIME FACULTY**

We are so fortunate to have so many part-time faculty. Some have been teaching for years and some are brand new to teaching. It’s been amazing to watch so many develop their teaching skills and take the step out of their comfort zone of being a clinician to try teaching. We are so thankful to all of these people.

**Valerie Brown, MS, OTR:** Ms. Brown is a graduate of the USA OT program, Class of 2010, and has several years of experience in clinical practice with Blue Bird Therapy, Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, and Kids Count Therapy Services. She joined us to teach OT 500 Occupation in Context for the fall semester.

**S. Blaise Chromiak, MD:** Dr. Chromiak is a board-certified Family Practice physician. He has extensive experience treating adult and elderly patients in primary care settings. This is his third year teaching OT 504 Neuroscientific Bases of Occupational Performance.

**Lindsey Dana, MS, OTR/L:** Ms. Dana is a graduate of the USA OT program, Class of 2008, and has several years of experience in clinical practice primarily in skilled nursing facilities and home health. She also has been developing an expertise in the area of home health low vision. She is teaching OT 544 Neuromusculoskeletal Assessment and this year also OT 540 Intervention III.

**Robin Deacy, MS, OTR/L:** Ms. Deacy has a Master’s degree from the University of Alabama Birmingham, Class of 2004, and is engaged in research towards completion of a doctoral degree. She joined us to teach an online course, OT 559 Professional Leadership.

**Kathy Gifford, Ph.D., OTR/L:** Dr. Gifford has years of teaching experience. She most recently has been providing therapy services at the USA Medical Center working with stroke team, burn team, and treating traumatic injuries. She willingly came to help us teach the Intervention I, OT 520, course as well as OT 534 Biomedical Aspects of Disability.

**Claire Hanna, MS, OTR/L:** Ms. Hanna is a graduate of the USA OT program, Class of 2004. She provides occupational therapy services to children in Clarke County Schools. She joined us to teach the OT 502 Occupational Development I class.

**Melissa (Engin) McCraw, MS, OTR/L:** Ms. McCraw is a graduate of the USA OT program, Class of 2012, and has experience working in pediatric and adult practice settings. She helped with labs in OT 520 Intervention I, which allowed her to use her experiences with all populations.

**Julie Tatonetti Mohler, MS, OTR/L:** Ms. Mohler is a graduate of the USA OT program, Class of 2008. She is director of therapy services at the American Autism and Rehabilitation Center in Daphne. She co-taught OT 517 Evaluation I and shared her expertise in pediatrics with our students.

**Candra Taylor, MS, MBA, OTR/L:** Ms. Taylor has just recently completed her MBA degree at Auburn University. She completed her Master’s in OT at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, Class of 2003, and her low vision certificate in 2004. She is joining us to teach the OT 546 Supervision.

**Tracy O’Connor, OTD:** Dr. O’Connor is a former faculty member in the Department of Occupational Therapy who has been working at the USA Medical Center for the past several years. She has an OTD degree from University of St. Augustine and her MS OT from Tuskegee, Class of 1997. She is teaching OT 201, OT 519, OT 541 and assisting with fieldwork.
Occupational Therapy continued...

PART TIME FACULTY CONTINUED...

Nancy Van Slyke, Ph.D.: Dr. Van Slyke taught with us for many years. She has a doctoral degree from Auburn University. She was able to come back and teach the OT 536 Management.

Angela Stammer, OT.: Ms. Stammer is a graduate of our USA OT Program, Class of 2011, and has been working at Gulf Breeze Hospital and Andrews Institute for years. She agreed to come share her wisdom about hand therapy with our students. She co-taught OT 540 Intervention III.

Lisa Tekell, OTD: Dr. Tekell is a former OT faculty member and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. She has experience in a variety of practice settings including home health, skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living facilities. Dr. Tekell also served as a community integration specialist and has a special interest in occupational therapy services in community-based settings. She co-taught OT 559 Professional Leadership with Dr. Wooster and she co-taught OT 524 Biomedical and Phenomenological Aspects of Disability I.

Thank you to all of our part time faculty for all you do to help our program thrive!

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARDS

The Department of Occupational Therapy is always so appreciative of the many fieldwork supervisors that help our students grow. It’s amazing how many sites and supervisors we need each year. So, it’s always hard to determine which ones to honor in any given year. We honored our award winners at the student pinning ceremony in Dec. 2013. The winners for this year are:

2014 Outstanding Alumni Award – Claire Hanna

Claire Hanna continues to provide occupational therapy services to special education students in Clarke County Schools. Claire continues to educate our OT students and allows them opportunities to explore school based OT services. In addition, Ms. Hanna has provided some OT services at local private schools. Ms. Hanna has been practicing therapy for over 10 years. She is always supportive of our students.

2014 Fieldwork Supervisor Award – Steve McVay and Karen McVay

We had a husband and wife dual recipient this year. Both Karen McVay and Steve McVay were honored for their many years of generous contributions to our OT students and our department. Steve McVay has been with Mobile Infirmary for a number of years and is always willing to take our OT students for both level I and level II rotations. Karen McVay continues to share her expertise in hand therapy with our students at Thomas Hospital. Collectively they have supervised a large number of OT students over the years. They were both very deserving of the awards and we are so thankful to them for their continued support.

2014 Special Recognition Award – Jean and Glenn Irion

We had another husband and wife team as dual recipients of this award. Both are physical therapists who have consistently shared their knowledge and skills with our OT students. Jean (or Dr. Mrs. as she is affectionately know) has continued to guest lecture within the department as well as share her expertise in aquatic therapy with our students. Glenn (Dr. Mr.) has continued to guest lecture and share his expertise in wound care and bone conditions with our students. They have each contributed numerous instructional hours to our students. We are so thankful and they will be missed.

Occupational Therapy Endowed Alumni Scholarship 20 for 20 campaign

In honor of our 20 years as a department, we have decided to establish the Occupational Therapy Alumni Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship reflects our gratitude for the opportunities we have received and ensures the same experience for the next generation of OT students. The Occupational Therapy Alumni Endowed Scholarship also allows us to create a lasting legacy for our program. The goal is set! We are striving for 100% participation. Please contact Morgan Cooper at (251) 414-8065 or mcoop-er@southalabama.edu to discuss ways in which you can contribute. We know you are doing great work out there, but we still need more therapists to meet the needs of our growing population. Please join us by making a contribution. We hope to have another football game party as soon as we meet our goal. Please join us and give generously.

SOUTH ALABAMA STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (SASOTA)

SASOTA has been very active this past year. We have donated our time and talents to many charitable organizations and events including the Martin Luther King Day event with USA, the Autism walk, Buddy Walk, activities with clients from VIA, and many other community service events.

SASOTA hosted another successful 5K in Spring 2015 and now they are gearing up for another one in February 2016. People of all abilities will be invited to participate in the event. SASOTA had a very strong presence at the ALOTA Fall Conference. Five student research groups presented posters. In addition, students staffed a booth in the exhibit area. SASOTA will continue its efforts to promote occupational therapy both on campus and in the community.

We are working on plans for the backpack awareness events at local schools as well as a plan to honor our colleagues in physical therapy as October is Physical Therapy Month. SASOTA has adopted St. Mary’s Home as our community service facility. In the next year, OT students will work with children there to build a trusting relationship and promote independence.
Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE)

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) is USA’s chapter of the national occupational therapy honor society. PTE members participate in several leadership and scholarly activities each year. Members were involved in the occupational therapy orientation welcoming new students and providing them with tips for academic success in graduate school. In September, PTE members will participate in Camp I Believe; this camp encourages healing for children who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Members will mentor the children and encourage their involvement in camp activities such as fishing and swimming. PTE members will also attend the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association fall conference in Orange Beach, Alabama. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, PTE members will present to students in the USA Pre-OT Club, promoting an understanding of various occupational therapy practice areas.

Interprofessional Research Project

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa mentored two medical students and five occupational therapy students in an interprofessional research project. The study was designed to identify the needs of persons who are homeless who receive services at the Student-Run Free Clinic at 15 Place. The results of the research were presented in a poster at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Annual Conference and will be presented this October at the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association Fall Conference.

Level I Fieldwork Opportunity in Mental Health

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa has been supervising Level I fieldwork students at Eastpointe Hospital for the past several semesters. This rotation provides an opportunity for students to interact with clients who have psychiatric diagnoses in an inpatient setting. Students assist in the evaluation process, provide group interventions, and document the services provided.

Faculty/Staff Special Accomplishments

At the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association conference in Nashville, Dr. Marjorie Scaffa was inducted into the American Occupational Therapy Foundation’s Leaders & Legacies Society in recognition of sustained and distinguished service to the profession of occupational therapy.

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa presented a poster and participated in a panel discussion at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Nashville. The poster addressed the importance of hope in the therapeutic process and the panel presentation focused on the role of occupational therapy in public health.

Dr. Donna Wooster presented a short course at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Nashville entitled Identification and Treatment of Sleep Disturbances in Children.

Ms. Courtney Sasse and Ms. Allison Steel presented “To teach or to treat” at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Nashville.

Student Special Accomplishments

We are so excited to share that many of our students presented at the 2015 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Nashville, TN.

Poster Presentation PO 6103 - Group Sensory Food Play for Treatment of Picky Eating, Wooster, D., Cummins, L., Grayson, T., Johnson, K., Langston, L., Melancon, S., Pommerening, J., & St. Romain, A.


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DR. DENNIS FELL

With the graduation of the Physical Therapy class of 2015, there are now over 1,050 alumni from our program, with nearly 40 years of program development, the efforts of numerous faculty to continue to grow the quality of the program, and the high quality of students that USA's PT attracts from across the US. The faculty are in the midst of the 5-year strategic planning for 2015-2020 to set the course for where the department will be in the next decade, and to kick it off, the USA PT Specialty Faculty Practice Clinic has now started seeing patients on campus, in our department, and in the student recreation center.

The PT class of 2018 recently started their first semester. We admitted 40 students (from nearly 400 qualified applicants) with a record average cumulative GPA of 3.84, average science GPA of 3.6 and average GRE score of 307 (on the new scoring system). We continued our tradition of "orientation to the beach" at Gulf Shores on the first Tuesday afternoon, and had an afternoon full of sun with no rain! Now they are deeply focused on Anatomy, PT Skills and Ex Phys. For the PT class of 2014 there was a 100% ultimate pass rate on the NPTE, with 35/37 students passed on their first attempt!

Doctors Fell and Day will again be leading the PT part of a mission/service trip for 2015 in conjunction with CMMSA. The interprofessional group will travel to Trinidad from Dec. 12th–19th to provide physical therapy, rehab, medical services, and spiritual care for the people there. I’m so happy that several PT alumni will be joining to provide leadership and inspiration on this team: Kim Enlow Baxter (1996), Darius McAfee (2000), and Jennifer Melancon (2012). Maybe sometime you’ll consider joining the alumni who supervise on the trip.

Please help us promote our DPT class reunions, especially if you graduated in the one of the anniversary years listed below! We will facilitate class reunions for the highlight classes achieving major milestones in 2016 in conjunction with the Alabama APTA Spring Conference at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL on April 15th–17th, 2016. Register for the event at ptalabama.org/events/?eventID=132.

You can register for the conference and get your CEUs and of course, enjoy the great beaches. This time we will highlight graduates from 1981 (35 year), 1986 (30 year), 1991 (25 year), 1996 (20 year), 2001 (15 year), 2006 (10 year), and 2011 (5 year), and any other particular classes that want to get together (let us know) with some specific activities for each class that participates. If you are interested or would help coordinate contacts with your class please contact Dr. Dennis Fell at 251-445-9330 or email ptdept@southalabama.edu.

As evidence of our scholarly commitment and continuing the tradition in our department, the department had four faculty members (Drs. Dale, Day, Fell, Gubler) with research presentations accepted for presentation at the International Conference of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy in Singapore, May 2015 (see photo next page). Also in recent years, our department research equipment has had significant improvements including upgrades to the Vicon 7-camera motion analysis system, a new BTE, diagnostic ultrasound, EMG, and metabolic cart, and research quality digital dynamometers.

Our alumni continue to excel in their arenas of practice. We are very pleased to recognize Dr. Jackson Rawls (2010 DPT graduate and supervisor at Mobile Infirmary) who was named the Outstanding Clinical Instructor for our program in 2015 and Dr. Andrew Bennett (PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT) (Class of 1989) was named the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Hall of Fame recipient for 2015 - it was great to have Andrew and his wife Heather visit the campus to see all the changes and receive his award! Read further details about Dr. Bennett in later pages.

Dalton Newell (class of 2016) was awarded the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) National Scholarship of Excellence, one of twelve recipients across the country. Dalton is the third student from our program to receive this national scholarship!

Keep us informed about your life events – we love seeing the photos on Facebook or in the mail. Also, please send me an email with specific news/promotions/specialty/children/grandchildren/etc.; that I can include it in the next alumni updates – see our website!

What a satisfying profession! Despite this past year being the most challenging year of my life, it brings a great smile to my face thinking of all the graduates out there who are changing lives, bringing hope, and optimizing movement! Be sure to check out the new Faculty/Student Group Photo on our website: http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pt/studentinformation.html. Hope to see you soon!

Dr. Dennis Fell
dfell@southalabama.edu
Alumni Reunion in Cullman Feb 2015

Dr. Fell hosted a regional Alumni event in north Alabama, February 2015. It was great to see the crowd that showed up and everyone enjoyed talking with Dr. Gray by Skype. Interested in hosting a regional alumni event in your city? Let me know.

Irion New Grandbaby and Retirement News

Doctor’s Glenn and Jean Irion now have their first grand-daughter! Alexa Marie Flynn was born to Lindsay Irion and Jordan Flynn in Washington State on Nov 16, 2014. She weighted 5 lbs. 15 ounces and was 18 inches long.

Sadly for our department, Dr. Glenn Irion retired from the University in August 2015. Dr. Jean Irion has taken the position as Department Chair at a developing PT program at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, so they can be closer to Kyle and the grandson Henry!
New Faculty Members

With the retirement of the Irions we welcome two new PT faculty members Dr. Kareaion Eaton, MPT graduate of University of Mobile with DPT from ASU, with significant geriatric experience and working toward wound specialization, and Dr. Jeremy Fletcher, OCS, a DPT graduate of our program, who is completing 13 years of military service, and will remain in the US Army Reserve.

New Daughter for Dr. Day

Congratulations to Dr. Matt Day & his wife Bethany on the birth of their daughter Caroline Ann Day, born March 18th 2015, weighing 7lbs 3oz!

DPT Students Engaged in Service

Dr. Laura White recently led a student research group which collaborated with the Mobile Area Agency on Aging to teach a fall prevention course in a community elder facility.

As an interdisciplinary education service project, Dr. Kennedy and our second year students are collaborating with Franklin Medical Health Center in Mobile, AL to provide free developmental and health screenings for children under 5 years old.

PT Department Celebrates World PT Day

The PT Department celebrated World PT Day on Sept. 8th with an International Skype lecture at 7:00am with nearly 120 students in attendance. Dr. Fell invited Dr. Emmanuel John to lead the Skype session, PT-trained in his home country of Nigeria, who received his PhD from University of Kansas. He has now taught in four PT programs in the US over his physical therapy career, but still has strong ties to the Nigerian Physiotherapy Association. He spoke of his international PT experience, the status of physical therapy in Nigeria, and current efforts to advance the profession in Nigeria. Dr. Rufai Ahmad, Associate Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Bayero University Kano, (BUK) Nigeria, and Mr. Taiwo Oyewumi, President of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy, each also joined in for part of the Skype session.

Physical Therapy Alumni Facebook Group

Dr. Fell started the University of South Alabama Physical Therapy Alumni Facebook group in Fall 2008 as an opportunity to enhance social networking and reconnection among USA’s PT graduates. Now there are nearly 470 of the 1,057 PT alumni (help me find all the others!) who are part of the online social networking group, including at least one person from the very first PT class. Dr. Fell has created, within the group, a photo album for each PT class all the way back to 1978, which created quite a stir of activity and comments! The album cover for each album is the class composite for your class, so you can look back to remember what you looked like, your hairstyle, and what you wore for your graduation portrait! So now it is your turn... check it out and then scan and add any fabulous photos you have of yourself, your classmates and the faculty from “back in the day!” Let the tagging begin! If you have a Facebook account, maybe we haven't located you yet. It’ll be a fun way to keep in touch with your classmates and share photos! When you log into Facebook (www.facebook.com), and open your account, click on "Groups" and search for "USAPT (University of South Alabama) Physical Therapy Alumni" Then you can request to join the group and Dr. Fell will approve your request so you can see who has already joined from your class. Please help us find other USA alumni and invite them to join the group. Who knows who you might find there?

PT Faculty Practice Clinic

The USA PT Faculty Practice Clinic has now started seeing patients on campus, in our department and in the student recreation center.
Dr. Andrew Bennett, Inducted as 2015 College Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

Andrew Bennett, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, from the class of 1999, was named the 2015 inductee into the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Hall of Fame and was honored at the College Awards Banquet on March 31st, 2015. Dr. Bennett was recognized for his outstanding work to advance the profession of physical therapy, and his contribution to the profession and society at large. He is ABPTS certified as an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS), Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Therapists (FAAOMPT), founder and CEO of Texas Physical Therapy Specialists (an award winning PT practice recognized by APTA, Gallup Organization, San Antonio and Austin Business Journal), founding Partner of Confluent Health (a national partnership between six PT companies), Senior Faculty and Course Developer at Evidence in Motion, Adjunct faculty member at US Army-Baylor, Texas State University, Regis University, and University of Incarnate Word, and has a strong record of service, mission and philanthropy, particularly through his organization PT Help for Haiti. He traveled to Mobile with his wife Heather (also a 1999 BSPT graduate) and gave a highly motivational lecture “Our current healthcare system is dying. What is the role of the physical therapist in building a sustainable one?” to the Year-1 and Year-2 students. The students responded with great interest! Dr. Fell and the faculty are very happy to recognize Andrew and his significant contributions to physical therapy!

Dominican Republic Trip Dec 2014

The Department of Physical Therapy joined forces with the campus student organization Christian Medical Ministry of South Alabama (CMMSA) to sponsor a 9-day mission service trip to Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic as an official study-abroad experience in Dec. 2014. The PT Department Chair Dr. Dennis Fell and Faculty member Dr. Matt Day joined Beth Huffmaster (trauma nurse practitioner at the USA Medical Center) and CMMSA Director Duane Baxter (alumnus of the BMD department), along with primary care health providers who live in Dominican Republic, to lead a team of 25, including physical therapy students, occupational therapy students, physician assistant studies students, and medical students. The team worked alongside local healthcare workers to provide healthcare and hope to the people of the southern Dominican Republic primarily in the region around San Pedro de Marcoris.

The team provided medical and rehabilitation care to individuals in underserved communities with limited access to health care. With support from SCORE International, temporary clinics were set up in churches in the villages of Quarenta Uno (41), Monte Cristy, Villa Verde, Boca Chica, and Ulloa, while also providing treatment to residents of the nursing home in Monte Cristy. With support of funds and resources raised by the team, they were able to give, as needed, rehabilitation equipment (donated by Goodwill Easter Seals), TheraBand (from Performance Health), medications from a variety of partners, vitamins and clothes/shoes, in addition to the healthcare. The team also provided education to staff members, patient education, and home exercise/activity programs for sustainability. The students reported real joy in serving others and commented on the value of the intensive interprofessional growth and healthcare team experience and the opportunity to blend their faith with practice; and the faculty were excited to see the students implement their professional skills while meeting real needs. Everyone agreed that the team got more out of the experience than those who were served, just being there and caring for others. In total, the 25-team members provided 950 volunteer hours of service addressing specific needs of over 300 patients!

The December 2015 trip is already planned for Trinidad and Tobago with a team of 60, including students from PT, OT, PA, RN and MD. If you would like to contribute toward the PT trip, please follow this link [https://cmmsa.cloverdonations.com/support-team-trinidad/](https://cmmsa.cloverdonations.com/support-team-trinidad/) and select “Physical Therapy Trinidad” from the drop-down menu. All donations to CMMSA are tax-deductible.
Benjamin’s Story

On February 16th, 2012, Hillary Willrodt Sirmon (class of 2005) and her husband Dr. Kristopher Sirmon were blessed with the birth of Benjamin Dean Sirmon, who was loved so greatly by their two daughters. Benjamin was born with a rare genetic disorder and physicians didn’t give them much hope for a long life with their precious son. So they were determined to focus on the quality of his life instead of the quantity. Benjamin loved sporting events, trips to the beach, school activities with his sisters and time with friends and family. Having Benjamin on the sidelines of life was never an option for them; inclusion was their goal. That is why time at the local park caught our attention. Inclusion wasn’t an option there and Benjamin was determined to change that. His vibrant spirit and sweet smile helped gain support and funding for an inclusive playground in south Louisiana. As sometimes happens in life, when the playground was completed in south Louisiana, "life" moved their family to north Louisiana. They had a new mission on their hands; supporting an inclusive playground called The West Monroe Civitan “Smiles Park”. So far, a generous and loving community has donated $20,000 in honor of their sweet Benjamin. They still have a long way to go. Benjamin completed his life on this earth on February 23rd, 2015. He was only three years old and three feet tall, but he changed many lives. We know that he can continue to inspire change with your help. Hillary says “He is our Superman and we celebrate his strength and accomplishments by fighting for the many who would benefit from a place where children of all abilities can play as one.”

For more info on this playground or to donate, visit www.wmcivitan.com. Donations can be made in Benjamin's honor through wmcivitan.com or mailed to: West Monroe Civitan Club, PO BOX 753, West Monroe, La 71294, with checks payable to: SI FPO West Monroe Civitan Smiles Park. To see more of the heart of Benjamin's story, see the photo here and check out the blog that Heather does at www.miraclestomilestones.wordpress.com.

New PT scholarships:

The Bud and Dot Phillips PT Scholarship was established in 2014 in loving memory of Noel’s parents. The DPT Class of 2014 gave their class gift of $1,000 to the Phillips scholarship, for which Dr. and Mrs. Fell are very thankful! With the endowment gift from the Fells, other annual fund gifts from faculty, and student gifts, this scholarship is now fully funded to award an annual scholarship.

The Thomas and Norma Fell Endowed PT Scholarship was established by Dr. Fell and his siblings in loving memory of their parents, who had each received physical therapy services from USA alumni during their lives. The DPT Class of 2015 gave their class gift of over $600 to add to the Thomas and Norma Fell PT Scholarship and the Fell family is very grateful! We continue to grow this scholarship, including ongoing donations from the family, to make it self-sustaining for an annual award.

All donations to USA scholarship funds are tax-deductible. Contact the office for more information on how you can support our department and future bright students.

Alumni Updates

The latest news we’ve received regarding the alumni listed below is now posted on our department website Alumni page. Let us know about your promotion, certification, move, new job, grandchildren or any other news you’d like to share. We want to include you in the next issue! Also help us get in touch with other alumni who are disconnected.

Physical Therapy continued...

FACULTY SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY

Peer-Reviewed Publications in the past academic year:


Non-peer-reviewed publications:


Faculty Grant Funded Activity:

• White LW. Adjunct program faculty. USA College of Nursing, HRSA NEPQR Project Grant (#:5 UD7 HP26043-02-00), Interprofessional Collaboration Practice to Improve Patient Outcomes. ($10,455)
• Dale RB (2015). $36,000. Motion analysis and muscle vibromyography. College of Allied Health Professions, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.
• Gubler CM, UCUR Undergraduate Research Award Scholar Supervisor. $500 Assessment of In-Season Changes in Risk Factors for Non-Contact ACL Injuries in Women Collegiate Basketball Players.
• Johnson P, Preudhomme D, Davis C, White LW. University of South Alabama, Division of Health Sciences, Interprofessional Grant, “Establishing a Local Chapter of the Institute of Healthcare Improvement at the University of South Alabama”, $1500.
• Fell DW, Wall JC, Payne M, Sellers S, Tatford B. Consistency of Step Lengths is not influenced by Walking Speed or an Acceleration Zone: 4-meter vs. 10-meter walk tests. Abstract number: Poster Presentation at World Confederation for Physical Therapy WCPT Congress. Singapore, Republic of Singapore. 4 May 2015.
• Tate J, Handley H, Dale RB, Baker C. Expert versus novice intrarater and interrater reliability of the frontal plane projection angle during a single-leg squat. 2015 Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, Indianapolis, IN, February 7, 2015.
• Dale RB. Biomechanics of the golf swing upon the lumbar spine. International Society of Biomechanics in Sport Meeting, Johnson City, TN, July 16, 2014.
• Day JM, Uhl TL, Nitz AJ. Platform Presentation- Scapular Muscle Performance in Patients with Lateral Epicondylalgia.. World Confederation of Physical Therapy Conference, Singapore. 5/2/2015
• Day JM, Irion J. Poster Presentation – Home Exercise Adherence in an Underserved Ecuadorian Community World Confederation of Physical Therapy Conference, Singapore. 5/1/2015
• Day JM, Irion J. Platform Presentation- Home Exercise Adherence in an Underserved Ecuadorian Community. APTA Combined Sections Meeting. Indianapolis IN. 2/5/2015
• Gubler C and Wall J. The Effect of Turns on Distance Covered in the Two Minute Walk Test. WCPT World Physical Therapy Conference, Singapore, May 2, 2015.
Physical Therapy continued ...

Faculty Scholarly Presentations Continued...


Courses Taught at National/State Conferences

- Dr. Laura White and Dr. Dennis Fell will be teaching a course on PT in the context of cognitive dysfunction at the Fall 2015 ALAPTA conference at Ross Bridge in Birmingham.
- Dr. Coral Gubler and Dr. Barry Dale were part of the regional Sports Symposium presented by Encore Rehab.

Faculty Achievements

- Dr. Coral Gubler was named a Top Prof by Mortar Board Honor Society in November 2014.
- Dr. Kareaion Eaton, new Assistant Professor in PT, has been named Southeast Regional Membership Chair for the APTA Section on Women's Health.
- Dr. Dennis Fell is currently serving as Chair of the Southern Consortium of Physical Therapist Education Programs, recently re-elected Vice-President of the Alabama Chapter of APTA, member of the Editorial Board, Journal of Physical Therapy Education, and continues as Membership/PR Chair of the APTA Neurology Section.
- Dr. Elisa Kennedy serves on the Alabama Early Intervention Conference Planning Committee, Executive Committee and Training and Development Subcommittee of the Early Intervention Council of Southwest Alabama, District VI, Ethics Committee of the Alabama Physical Therapy Association, and Member of the Social Media Subcommittee, Communications Committee (2012 to present) and Autism Special Task Force for the Section on Pediatrics, APTA.

USA Physical Therapy Alumni Society and Future Gatherings

The PT Alumni Advisory Group will be meeting to facilitate alumni activities, advise the department, and also plan several regional alumni reunions. Please contact Dr. Dennis Fell if you are interested in participating, including by cell phone or Skype if you can not physically make it. Also, you might have the address or phone for an alumnus with whom we have lost contact. Call (251) 445-9330 or email ptdept@southalabama.edu.

We also want to start a specific Physical Therapy Society within the USA Alumni Association http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni. If you are a USA Alumni Association member, you can help us form the PT Society just by saying that you want to have membership in the PT Alumni Society (no extra fee). So please contact Dr. Fell, dfell@southalabama.edu, to let him know you want that designation. This will help us get financial support for our regional alumni events.

Help us plan an alumni event in your area!
Ongoing project, a work in process. Always improving and never stagnant. Until next year!

Therefore, I try to focus on being a great “information giver,” monitor progress toward achieving the vision and goals to my faculty and staff member, including our student worker at the time contributed above and beyond their gifts of time, talent, dedication and willingness to showcase the on-going and continuous rigorous review of our program. Our goal was to achieve seven years of continued accreditation; the maximum allowed.

Our on-site visit took place on June 19-20, 2014. With the assistance of external consultants, the program demonstrated the requisite evidence to support our application and self-study. In September 2014, our program was granted continuous accreditation through 2021 with only two citations which have been resolved and accepted by our accrediting body. I am also humbled to report that I have been appointed as an ARC-PA Site Visitor which should assist in strengthening my role as an academic leader.

So what have I learned over this past year? First and foremost, my responsibilities extend far beyond the multiplicity of day-to-day administrative tasks on behalf of faculty, staff and students. I am compelled to foster a positive and productive work environment and attaining agreed upon personal and departmental goals. There is a delicate balance between the individual interests of faculty and the collective needs of the department. Second, establish a collective departmental vision or focus. I would many rather foster conditions under which faculty and staff will perform their respective duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication, rather than oppression and coercion. Third, develop faculty/staff ownership of the vision. This process has placed our program on a path of improvements from the admissions process through graduation; thus, a more responsive organization and overarching framework for principles and practices. Fourth, initiate changes carefully and slowly and view departmental changes as a long-term commitment. Our program has undergone tremendous change in its faculty/staff, didactic and clinical curricula, policy and procedures to name a few. However, these changes did not occur overnight. I am fortunate to work with a team that recognized we live in changing times and our program must respond to that change through adaptability and flexibility. Fifth, allocate resources of time, information and assignments to implement the vision and departmental goals. Sounds simple right? However, I find it to be the most challenging aspect of the Chair position. Numerous issues and their potential solutions are simply out of my control. Therefore, I try to focus on being a great “information giver,” monitor progress toward achieving the vision and goals to my faculty and staff, role-model, mentor and support my faculty and staff as much as possible.

So, when does the quest to improvement end? When I stop breathing. Between now and then, I will consider myself to be an ongoing project, a work in process. Always improving and never stagnant. Until next year!

Dr. Diane Abercrombie
dabercrombie@southalabama.edu

FOR WHAT YOU DO THERE IS NO PRICE, NO AMOUNT WOULD SUFFICE

In May we seated the Class of 2017. The 40 impressive students were selected from almost 1,000 applications. They came to us from all over the country, as far away as California, Utah, and Wisconsin, over 13 states are represented. The matriculate had an average GPA of 3.62, GRE total scores of 309, 1800 Patient Care hours and over 400 Community Service hours. We are proud to have 7 military veterans in our program this cycle. The new application cycle is currently open until November 1st, 2015 and the applications received so far look very strong. The numbers will likely exceed those of last year. The most notable change to our minimum requirements was an increase in the number of required Direct Patient Contact experience hours to 500. Complete program and admissions information can be found on our website at http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pa/admissions.html. Go Jags!
Originally from Brewton, Alabama, I ventured to Lamoni, Iowa for my undergraduate degree. In 2007, I graduated from Graceland University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. During my college years, I was able to meet and shadow numerous physician assistants. Through this process, I discovered my calling and decided to pursue a career in medicine as a physician assistant. After graduating from the University of South Alabama’s physician assistant program in 2009, I started working for Birmingham Health Care in Birmingham, Alabama. Over the next year, I transitioned to rural health care in Greensboro, Alabama before settling in with Southlake Orthopaedics in Birmingham, Alabama. In June 2015, I joined the faculty as an assistant professor aiding in the didactic curriculum. Surrounded by a family of educators, I knew I ultimately wanted a career in academia. I look forward to being a part of this dynamic team and sharing my knowledge of rural and specialty medicine.

I began working as full-time Assistant Professor in May of 2015, and I was previously part-time faculty in 2013. My love of learning and training future colleagues brought me back into education. I have served in the Army National Guard as a Captain since 2008 and have participated in medical missions outside of the United States to include El Salvador. Since being on faculty, I have been added to the HRSA grant for interprofessional education and will be proctoring students at Cathedral Place. I have also recently submitted the Don Pedersen Research Grant Proposal through PAEA to research PA students’ interest in Primary Care and Underserved Medicine. I look forward to providing outstanding education through service and academia to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

Ms. Risling is in her third year as Assistant Professor at USA’s Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Most recently she has taken the role of Director of Didactic Education in her department. She continues to practice clinically in family medicine and continues to precepts students (medical, PA’s and nursing) in interprofessional health and wellness teams at a day homeless shelter in Mobile, Alabama. She is a faculty advisor to the Student Run Clinic at 15 Place and a member of the ad hoc committee on Interprofessional Education for the Division of Health Sciences. She is a new member of the Physician Assistant Education Association’s pipeline recruitment workgroup to promote, welcome and increase diversity into the Physician Assistant profession.

Bri is a native of Portland, Oregon and attended the University of Portland where she received a Bachelor of Sciences in Bio-Chemistry. While at the University of Portland, she was an Army ROTC cadet and after graduation spent 5 years on active duty as a Chemical and Biological Weapons Officer. During her time in the military she worked with many Physician Assistants and loved their ability to be the voice for patient education and compassion. She decided to leave the military to pursue Physician Assistant school. Bri attended Wake Forest University’s School of Medicine in North Carolina and upon graduation completed her Masters in Medical Sciences and became a certified Physician Assistant. Since then she has worked in the Emergency Room and most recently in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. Bri joined the Department of Physician Assistant Studies in April of this year and teaches students in their didactic year, with a focus on Infectious Diseases. During her time at University of South Alabama she plans on working towards her PhD in Basic Medical Sciences.

I became the fourth Medical Director in the PA program in 2011. It has been an honor to serve with such an outstanding group of individuals. My role involves providing strategic guidance in all major facets of the program: admissions, curriculum, and students. I am a huge advocate of physician assistants and enjoy both collegial working relationships as well as clinical preceptor opportunities. I find that PAs truly are “Partners in Medicine” and I am honored to be associated with such a stellar PA training program right here at the University.
Physician Assistant Studies continued...

FACULTY HAPPENINGS!

After 30+ years of continuous PA education, Dr. Vetrosky retired on June 1, 2015. He served as faculty and director of didactic education with the program for almost 20 years. Dr. Vetrosky was a pivotal figure on the PA faculty, bringing with him an endless clinical knowledge base, clinical skills, comradery and excellence in teaching. He’s not quite ready to sever all ties with his educator/clinician role. He will continue with our program as course director for our three series Diagnostic Data and Interpretation course, while also maintaining clinical practice with Cordova Urology, Pensacola, Florida.

HEALTHCARE EXTENDERS AT THE FOREFRONT OF PATIENT CARE

Jason Poyadou grew up in Jefferson Parish in the small town of Jean Lafitte, LA, a town 20 minutes south of New Orleans with a population of 1900 people. Had hurricane Katrina not impacted New Orleans, Jason’s high school graduating class would have totaled 200 students. However, due to the hurricane the senior class swelled to nearly 600 graduates. According to Jason the people from his hometown form a very close knit community who really care about one another, relationships, having good morals and are very humble. When asked why he felt the need to return to his roots to work as a PA he said he did it because he wanted to feel like he was making an impact on someone’s life. He wanted to feel like he was giving back. “Everyone feels like family and I want to be able to give back to those who brought me up.”

Why PA School?

Jason was involved in a medical program while in high school and he had every intention of becoming a physical therapist. While completing his high school internships, doctors tried to persuade him to become a physician. He knew this was not the path he wanted to follow as he didn’t want to be in school for seven plus years. Several physicians then suggested that he become a PA. He had never heard of the PA profession while in high school. Just prior to completing his undergraduate degree, and after researching the profession, he decided to and applied to PA school. He realized that he wanted to have a broader scope of responsibilities in the medical arena. He applied at LSU Shreveport and USA. Jason was accepted at both institutions but he selected USA as he felt more welcomed during his interview and because USA was closer to home.

Rural Medicine: My Passion, My Dream

Following graduation 2013, Jason worked full-time in Emergency medicine at Ochsner Medical Center main campus for 18 months. However, Jason always wanted to provide health related services in rural medicine. He felt more connected to inhabitants of rural and medically underserved areas. His practice choice was cemented during his clinical rotation in rural Belle Chasse, LA (an area similar to Grand Bay, AL). Jason currently lives in Belle Chasse, LA. The rural hospital where Jason is currently working, Plaquemine’s Medical Center was completely destroyed during Hurricane Katrina 2005. From September 2005 until eight months ago the personnel from the previous hospital/medical center were working out of FEMA trailers. The new medical center opened in 2014 in Port Sulphur, LA. Jason wanted to work with Plaquemines’s Medical Center following graduation; however the practice was challenged with physical space and other resources. Not one to give up, Jason sent Plaquemine’s Medical Center a letter of interest in December 2014 and was hired to initially work one day weekly. He has since attained full time employment with the practice starting April 2015 as their inaugural physician assistant. Jason states he couldn’t be happier.

Congratulations to the class of 2015!
**Radiologic Sciences**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DR. CHARLES NEWELL**

With the 2015-2016 academic year underway, the Department of Radiologic Sciences begins its 39th year of operation. Forty-four juniors were admitted to the B.S. program, and will join fifty-seven senior students who are quickly acclimating to the demands of the second year. The combined Departmental enrollment for the fall semester 2015 is 101. Current senior student enrollment in the various modalities is: MRI (13), CT (17), Mammography (8), Ultrasound (9), Radiation Therapy (6), Cardio-Vascular (4) and Radiology Administration (4).

The Class of 2015 was the second class to complete the new baccalaureate program. Our initial review of the new B.S. curriculum, including student didactic and clinical achievement, indicates the new curriculum is fulfilling the needs of program students. Thus at this writing, there are no major curricular revisions planned for the foreseeable future.

The first-time ARRT pass rate for the Class of 2014 is as follows: Radiation Therapy: 100%. Radiography: 100%. The first-time ARRT pass-rate for the Class of 2015 is as follows: Radiation Therapy: 87.5%. Radiography: Although there have been two reported failures in the ARRT Radiography Registry, pass-rate data is incomplete at this writing because there are graduates who have yet to take their registry.

Since all students are eligible to participate in the University’s fall graduation, the Department held an Honors Convocation and students received certificates for the various modalities completed during their senior year. The Honors Convocation was held in the large lecture hall in the Health Sciences Building on July 26th, 2015. Thirty-eight students completed various modalities and the Lecture Hall was filled to capacity. Those students recognized for academic and clinical achievement during the Honors Convocation were Cecelia Stewart (Radiography), Chelsea Heitfield (Computerized Tomography), Erin Gittings (Radiation Therapy), Elizabeth Frey (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), Lily Dunn (Ultrasound), Heather Gilley (Mammography), Cecelia Stewart (Cardio-Vascular Interventional), and Cecelia Stewart (Dean’s Award). A reception for the graduates and their families was held in the lobby of the Health Sciences Building.

The Department’s scholarship fund continues to receive support from faculty, alumni, and other individuals interested in the allied health professions. As I have indicated in previous editions of the *Crucible*, our scholarship funds currently enable the Department to award $3,700 annually to three deserving students which are always appreciated. However, with tuition at $292.00 per semester hour, one can readily see that $3,700 does not go very far. So, once again I request that alumni and others consider making a small donation to one of our scholarship funds. Regardless of the amount, each donation adds to the continued growth of the scholarship fund that eventually leads to an increase in the amount each scholarship recipient receives. Any assistance you may lend will be sincerely appreciated.

**The Department currently provides four scholarships which are:**

- The Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship ($1000 per annum)
- Mary Lou Littleton Endowed Scholarship ($2000 per annum)
- Radiation Therapy Scholarship ($700 per annum)
- Charles and Penny Newell Endowed Scholarship ($300 per annum)

**Student Committee Appointments:**

- Emily Feagin and Natalie McClain – Professional Behavior Committee
- Joseph Aldor and Brooklyn Strozier – Academic Standards Committee
- Kathy Knaebel and Wesley McPherson – Advisory Committee

**Other Student News:**

Ms. Erin Gittings was selected to the ASRT Student Development Program. ASRT accepts 100 students from across the country and only two from each state. Erin will participate in the next ASRT annual meeting.

In July, graduating Radiation Therapy students Rebekah Kendrick, Morgan Wiley, Erin Gittings, Brittany Saunders, Erin Weimer, Caleb Bethea and Carly Wood visited the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville for a tour of the facility, a lecture on the physics of proton therapy, and observations of therapists during proton therapy treatment delivery. This facility is one of only 14 proton therapy facilities in operation in the US, and has employed more USA Radiation Therapy program graduates over the past 10 years than any other employer.
Radiologic Sciences continued...

Alpha Eta is a national allied health honorary organization that recognizes exceptional academic accomplishments of students completing allied health programs. This year seven radiologic science students were inducted into Alpha Eta during the Pat Capps College of Allied Health Professions annual recognition ceremony held at the Mobile Country Club on March 31, 2015. Congratulations go to Lily Dunn, Heather Gilley, Erin Gittings, Rebekah Kendrick, Cecelia Stewart, Sarah Webb and Morgan Wiley.

A Final Comment

I began my 39th year as chairperson of the Department of Radiologic Sciences on July 6th, 2015, and during this time I have experienced a long and enjoyable career at the University of South Alabama (USA). However, it is now time to turn over the leadership to another individual and, therefore, I therefore plan to retire on June 1, 2016. I trust the readers of this publication will grant me this indulgence to briefly share a few of my experiences during my 39 years at USA.

My association with USA began when Dr. Arvin Robinson, Chair of the Department of Radiology-College of Medicine, contacted me in November 1975 about starting a radiologic sciences certificate program. The idea seemed promising and although I was not officially employed, I began working on a curriculum, completing a number of unfamiliar USA curriculum forms, writing syllabi and communicating with Dr. Robinson on a weekly basis. Following my interview with Dr. Whiddon, former President of USA, I was informed the proposed program had been approved and I would begin employment as the chairperson in July, 1976. I was also informed that the program was slated to begin in September of 1976 which, to say the least, was indeed a shock since there was much remaining to do and essentially no time for student recruitment. Adding to this surprise occurred during a mid-July meeting with the Academic Vice President who informed me that owing to the fact that only two months remained in the current fiscal year, the budget I submitted months before my arrival would be reduced to two-twelfths of the original amount. This development led to emergency politicking and cautious threats, but Dr. Robinson came through with “in-kind support” and the program secured sufficient start-up funds. This was my initial budget war as I often referred to them, but I suppose this event prepared me for other wars that arose frequently during the program’s formative years. I must confess that my first year at USA created significant doubts regarding my decision to leave a well-established program in Mississippi and begin a new program, but I decided to remain and I never looked back.

With the valuable assistance of Molly (Dr. Robinson’s secretary) numerous letters were sent to students in early July who had expressed an interest in beginning a radiography program based purely on hearsay circulated by those still fully unknown to me. However, with Molly’s invaluable assistance along with divine intervention, applicant interviews were conducted and twelve students were eventually admitted. Members of the first class were Mitch Briggs, Robert (Raisins) Buchanan, Diane Dillard, Janice Foster, Marianne (California) Gilbert, Mike Harris, Jeannene (Lisbeth) Havard, Donna Levin, Clara Litton, Vicki Moravec, Krista Norwood and Steve Wright. The entire class scored 100% on their first attempt on the ARRT Registry and boy was I happy. Worthy of mention at this point is the fact that a collegiate radiography program was new to the Mobile radiography community and there was much gloom and doom predicted by various local radiographers about this form of education along with an anticipated subpar clinical performance of collegiate graduates. Well, the Class of 1978 and those classes that followed proved the naysayers wrong.

On my first day at USA I found myself assigned to a small office shared by three surgical residents. As cramped as it was, we got along just fine. The office was located in an area that is now part of USAMC’s radiology front office. A month or so later I moved to the 3rd floor of the Mastin Building where I remained for three years. Classes held in the Mastin Building enjoyed a large tiered classroom with good audiovisual equipment. Given the constant conflict with the medical school for space, I finally convinced Dr. Covey, former Dean of the CAP, to purchase side-by-side trailers — or as Dr. Whiddon preferred to call them, portable buildings (with wheels). Portable buildings of the same type began to pop up on the USA and USAMC campus and were occupied by the Department of Pediatrics, Family Practice and Psychiatry. As bad as our trailers “may” have appeared, they did provide a classroom and an audiovisual room.

Five years later a miracle occurred. Dr. Whiddon purchased the “old” Providence Hospital building and for the first time, we could envision the establishment of a real x-ray lab, not to mention real space to conduct other activities. Although Providence left two functioning x-ray units behind, we needed two more to accommodate the increased enrollment which, by that time, had reached 25 or so students. This need necessitated a trip to South Florida to cajole a Cuban émigré, who happened to be in the used x-ray equipment business, to donate two x-ray units to Mobile. Following this mishap, the quintet managed to become separated around 7:00 pm on interstate I-10, and I could only imagine what had happened to the truck and the students driving the truck. I and two students searched for the truck for well over an hour and finally caught up with the truck somewhere on I-10. The anxiety was such that as we pulled alongside the rental truck, there was an exchange of verbiage and gestures amongst the students that would cause a sailor to take notes. Regardless, we did acquire two x-ray units free of charge and made it safely back home. The final conflict occurred a few days later when the females in the class complained about not being included in the trip. Oh well, what to do? I would add that I have taken numerous trips with students over the years, but the trip to Florida was one for the ages. Although I could have included other events that have challenged me to the limit, but I will save these for the day I get around to writing my memoirs. So, stay tuned.
The program remained at the “old” Providence for 23 years until another miracle occurred. Plans for a new building for all Allied Health Programs were announced in 2004. This move had been talked about for years, and thanks to Dr. Covey’s tireless leadership the entire CAP would be together under one roof on the main campus. Frankly, I always thought that should such an event ever occur, one way or another I would be like Moses and banned from the promise land. Well, following two years of planning and construction, “we” finally moved into a new building complete with classrooms and a spacious well-equipped x-ray lab. Not to complain, but “we” still had to lobby for what I considered to be essential items such as tiered seating, dimmable lights and window-blackout material so that we could adequately view x-ray images in a reasonably darkened room. While we still use film in the x-ray labs, we have also entered the digital area via the acquisition of two CR units. It is most interesting, if not downright humorous, to see digital oriented students work with film and attempt to solve exposure factor issues. Observing today’s students working with film reminds me of an expression I have seen before when students observe bugs, microorganisms etc. under a microscope. Yes, film is definitely foreign to today’s students.

The program’s curriculum has undergone numerous changes over the years as we have reduced or deleted older topics while constantly adding new and/or updated topics. In 2012, we revised our long-standing curriculum to coincide with new ARRT regulations. These regulations resulted in the forced deletion of the certificate program and the incorporation of a baccalaureate program. Currently, the USA radiography program is the only baccalaureate degree program in the state of Alabama.

So, much has passed under the bridge over the last 39 years and I often wonder where the time has gone! Along the way I have been bolstered by friendships that will remain with me forever. While faculty have come and gone over the years, I must say that whatever success this program has experienced is, in large measure, directly attributable to my faculty. The faculty has been supportive and definitely hard-working. To friends and faculty alike, I offer my sincere appreciation for your support, your hard work and especially your patience. A former faculty member described my management style as being a benevolent autocrat even though I did not know I had a management style. I will definitely miss the daily interaction with faculty and staff. In addition to friends and faculty, there are the students who have sustained my interest in teaching which is what I have continued to love throughout my career. That said, it will come as no surprise that it is the students I will miss most in retirement. For students past and present, it is my hope that you will always act in a professional manner, always do good work and continue to grow your knowledge in the radiologic sciences. Along the way, I hope that you will consider supporting our scholarship funds as these funds are always needed by students just like you. Finally, I also hope that you will stay in touch via Facebook, email (newellp@bellsouth.net), phone or simply dropping by for a visit. Once again, I will miss all of you.

So, farewell and God bless.

Charles W. Newell, Chair and Associate Professor

NEW FACULTY

Ms. Donna Cleveland re-joined the department as an instructor in January 2015. Her previous employment in the department began in 1990 and ended in 1997 when she decided to pursue the master’s degree and spend more time with her children. In addition to the master’s degree, she holds certifications in radiography, mammography and ultrasound (RDMS).

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Cathy Cooper
Patient Care Review, presented to student radiographers at the Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting, Eufaula, AL, April, 2015.

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly, presented to radiographers at the Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting, Eufaula, AL, April, 2015.

Patricia Brewer


Radiologic Sciences continued...

FACULTY ACTIVITIES continued...

Donna Cleveland
Prophylactic Surgery for Breast Cancer and Alternative Treatments, Alabama Academy of Science Allied Health Division Presentation: March 12, 2015

Cherie Pohlmann
Fetal Kidneys. Ultrasound breakout session of RADSYM, Biloxi, MS, October 2014
OB Ultrasound for Nurses to Nurse Practitioner Orientation, August 2014
OB Ultrasound Demonstration, PROMISS (Pregnancy Resources of Mississippi) Banquet, March 2015

Dale Smith
Standardizing the Exposure Index in Digital Radiography, ALSRT annual meeting, Orange Beach, AL 2014.

OFFICE/APPOINTED POSITIONS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Donna L. Cleveland
Vice Chairperson 2015-2016 Alabama Academy of Sciences Allied Health Division.

Cathy Cooper
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists, April 2013-April 2014
Co-Chairman of the 2015 Annual Meeting Committee, Eufaula, AL
Member of the Bylaws Committee
Member of the Public Relations Committee

Charles Newell
Legislative Liaison, ALSRT 2015-2016.

Patricia A. Brewer
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, Accreditation Site Visitor, Team Chair status
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists, Secretary/Treasurer
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists, Annual Conference Planning Committee
Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences, Membership Committee

Cherie Pohlmann
Webmaster for Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists

REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS/BOOKS

Patricia Brewer, ASRT – Journal of Radiologic Technology

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Cathy Cooper, Chucri Jalkh, Charles Newell and Dale Smith
Provided technical services to the orthopedic and general medicine units at USA Stanton Road Out-Patient Clinic during the 2014-2015 academic year. Service activities averaged 7-10 hours per week including University break periods. Additional service provided to USA ENT Clinic, Health Sciences Building Monday through Friday 8:00-5:00.

Donna L. Cleveland
Department of Radiologic Sciences Professional Behavior Committee
Department of Radiologic Sciences Academic Standards Committee
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee
Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Committee
SERVICE ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

Cathy Cooper  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Professional Behavior Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Academic Standards Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Advisory Committee

Chuci Jalkh  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Professional Behavior Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Academic Standards Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Committee

Charles Newell  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Professional Behavior Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Academic Standards Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee, Chair  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Committee, Chair  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Advisory Committee, Chair  
College of Allied Health Curriculum/Academic Programs Committee  
College of Allied Health Sabbatical Committee

Dale Smith  
Faculty Senator for College of Allied Health  
College of Allied Health Biosafety Committee  
College of Allied Health Curriculum/Academic Programs Committee  
ALCOA Scholarship Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Professional Behavior Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Academic Standards Committee  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee

Patricia Brewer  
American Cancer Society, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Registration Chairman College of Allied Health United Way Representative 2014  
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) accreditation site visit conducted January 7 - 9, 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan.  
Camp Rap-A-Hope Volunteer 2014

Cherie Pohlmann  
Admissions Committee, Ultrasound  
Department of Radiologic Sciences Admissions Committee  
Dean’s Advisory Committee, College  
Faculty Senator for College of Allied Health

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Donna L. Cleveland  
ASRT Mammography Seminar: The Reality of Breast Density/ the History of CAD 8/26/14  #MSZ0223002 /#MSZ02230001  
Mammography Conference 2014. Children’s and Women’s Hospital  
9/27/2014  ASRT #ALD0094010
Radiologic Sciences continued...

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION CONTINUED...**

**Cathy Cooper**  
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Seminar, Eufaula, AL, April 2015.

**Chucri Jalkh**  
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists and Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Seminar, Eufaula, AL, April 2015.

**Charles Newell**  
RADSYM, Biloxi MS., October 2014.  
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists (ALSRT) Annual Conference, Orange Beach, AL., April 11-13, 2015.

**Patricia Brewer**  
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists (ALSRT) Annual Conference, Eufaula, AL, April 2015.  
South Alabama Conference on Teaching and Learning, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL., May 13-14, 2015.

**Dale Smith**  
Maintenance of Electronic Radiology Data Program.  
Implemented TBL format for RAD 437  
Began collection of data for Student Attrition research (student admissions)  
As alumni, please remember you are cordially invited to visit our facilities in the Health Sciences Building and our web site at [www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/radiologicsciences](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/radiologicsciences).

As always, we encourage you to consider assisting students in our program through donations to one or more of our scholarship programs. Arrangements to make donations can be made by contacting The University of South Alabama Office of University Development – 650 Clinic Drive – Room 2150 – Mobile, AL 36688-0002, Telephone: (251) 460-7032 – FAX (251) 461-1776 - e-mail development@southalabama.edu or the Department of Radiologic Sciences, Telephone: (251) 445-9346 – FAX (251) 445-9347. Regardless of the amount, your support will be sincerely appreciated.

Alumni are also encouraged to submit items of interest for publication in the Crucible. Please let us hear from you.  
Direct your submissions to: Dr. Charles Newell, Department of Radiologic Sciences, 5721 USA Drive N – HAHN 3015 - Mobile, AL 36688-0002 or cnewell@southalabama.edu. Again, let us hear from you.
In May 2015 we graduated 24 students with MSSLP degrees and 10 students with Au.D degrees. Thirty-nine undergraduate students also graduated with degrees in Speech and Hearing Science in May. Tiffany Chavers, Alyssa Knight, Mary Mikel, Leah Paul, Megan Foran, L. G., Ramkissoon, I., & Batavia, M. (2014). Hearing status and auditory evoked potentials in teenagers and young adults who reported exposure to secondhand smoke. HEaring Across the Lifespan (HEAL) Conference, Cernobbio (Lake Como), Italy.

In June 2015 Dr. Julie Estis was appointed Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the university. While we will miss her in the department, we wish her the best in her new endeavor. We are currently recruiting for a replacement for Dr. Estis.

In May 2015 the department welcomed 20 new students to the MSSLP program and 11 new students to the Au.D program. This brings our totals to 40 SLP graduate students, 42 AUD graduate students, and 7 Ph.D. students.

In August 2015 the department welcomed 20 new students to the MSSLP program and 11 new students to the Au.D program. This brings our totals to 40 SLP graduate students, 42 AUD graduate students, and 7 Ph.D. students.

Recent Faculty and Student Publications


Recent Faculty and Student Presentations


Ramkissoon, I. & Batavia, M. (2014). Hearing status and auditory evoked potentials in teenagers and young adults who reported exposure to secondhand smoke. HEaring Across the Lifespan (HEAL) Conference, Cernobbio (Lake Como), Italy.


Foran, L. G., Beverly, B. L., & Estis, J. M. (2014). The effect of gestured input on fast mapping by typically developing toddlers. 35th annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.
Speech Pathology and Audiology continued...

RECENT FACULTY AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED...


STUDENT RECOGNITION

During graduation ceremonies in May several student awards were presented.

Dean’s Award: Kelsey Thomas
Undergraduate: Kayla Ford
MSSLP: Ellen King
AUD: Courtney Commander
Ph.D.: Lori Foran

Each year one student pursuing an MSSLP degree, one student pursuing an Au.D degree, and one student pursuing an undergraduate degree in speech and hearing sciences are awarded Marjorie Faircloth Scholarships for excellence in the classroom and clinic. The Marjorie Faircloth Scholarships are named in honor of our first departmental Chair. These scholarships are funded by donations from alumni, friends, and faculty of the department. This year’s honorees are:

Undergraduate: Kayla Ford
MSSLP: Megan Smith
AUD: Jennifer Hammond

In 2009 Dr. Bryce Evans began the Dr. Bryce Evans Book Endowment. The endowment is to fund an award to assist a deserving undergraduate student in purchasing textbooks for their classes.

This year’s winners of this award were: Natalie Sartain and Kelsey Thomas

SHAA Outstanding Student Award: Kelsey Williams

OUTSTANDING OFF-CAMPUS SUPERVISORS

In 2012 the faculty began to recognize outstanding off-campus supervisors who volunteer their time to help us train our students. This year the recognized supervisors were:

SLP: Stacey Mroczko, M.S., CCC-SLP
AUD: Candace Bell, Au.D., CCC-A

FACULTY RECOGNITION

Dr. Richard Talbott serves as a Board Member of ABESPA.

Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey is representing the department and college as a member of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Gordon-Hickey is chair of the Salaries and Benefits Committee.

Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey serves on the ASHA SIG 6 Steering Committee.

Dr. Ishara Ramkissoon serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Mercy Medical.

Dr. Elizabeth Adams serves as treasurer of the Council of Au.D. Program Directors.

Dr. Brenda Beverly is a member of the Learning Tree of Mobile Advisory Board and a member of the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Brenda Beverly is the Editor of ASHA Perspectives, SIG 1.

Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey serves on the Editorial Board of Ear and Hearing.

Dr. Paul Dagenais is a member of the Board of Trustees, Mercy Life.

Mrs. Kendra Hudson is a consultant to Mobile Community Action, Inc. (Head Start).