Message from the Dean, Dr. Rick Talbott

Once again the College has enjoyed a significant increase in student enrollment for the 2010 Fall semester. This is of course in part due to the excellent job opportunities that are predicted to be available in the healthcare arena for the foreseeable future but also due to the excellent national reputation that our various departments have for the quality of their programs. This high quality is substantiated by the continued excellent first time national qualifying examination results achieved by our graduates with an average of over 95% pass rate across all of our disciplines.

We are very pleased that the College served as host of the Southern Deans of Allied Health Colleges’ Fall meeting, held at the Battle House in Mobile, and enjoyed the opportunity to show off our new physical plant. Deans from across the Southeastern United States attended the conference. The meeting started with a dinner in our new building and featured a welcome by President Moulton and our Vice President for Health Sciences, Dr. Ron Franks. The meeting gave us a chance to highlight many of the clinical and research initiatives in the College and the quality of our programs.

One of the newest initiatives in the College, spearheaded by the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department, has been the addition of an ENT clinical practice within that department and the hiring of an otolaryngologist, Dr. Wiley Justice, as the clinician for the clinic and Medical Director for the College. Dr. Justice’s joining our faculty as Medical Director opens up the opportunity for clinical services in the new building in addition to the Speech and Hearing Clinic and several of our departments have either launched or are in the process of expanding their clinical practice.

Several of our departments have undergone accreditation self study and on site review by their national accreditation organizations this year. We are pleased that the reports from these reviews have been very positive and is confirming of the excellent work done by our faculty and the quality of our educational product. As always, we look forward to hearing from our alumni and hope you will keep in touch and visit whenever the opportunity presents. Best wishes for the coming holiday season and the new year.

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

Message from the Associate Dean

It is a great time to be part of the University of South Alabama. Both USA and our college have started a new academic year with the largest numbers of students in history. Overall enrollment at the university has surpassed the 15,000 mark, while the enrollment in the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions is almost at 1,900.

This year nine out of twenty-nine recipients of the “Top Prof” award were faculty members in our college. This is an honor awarded by students in the Honor Society Mortar Board in recognition of their mentors. In addition to the BMD faculty mentioned on page 2, the list included Dr. John Jefferson (Physical Therapy), Dr. Tim Op’t Holt and Mr. William Wojciechowski (Cardiorespiratory Care). We want to hear from you. Send us an email with suggestions or if your address has changed. Also, let us know if any of your former classmates is not receiving the Crucible, so we can add him/her to the mailing list.

Julio F. Turrens, Ph.D.
jturrens@usouthal.edu
Message from the Chair, Dr. William B. Davis

One year after moving, we are finally settled into the new building. The additional space for classes has turned out to be, not only a comfortable enjoyment, but also a resource in the “nick” of time to meet what has this year been an unprecedented growth for the program. Just by the numbers, so to speak, the program has 178 freshmen enrollees bringing the total number of BMD majors to a record 574. Also over 40% of the entering 2010 University Honor students are BMD majors. In addition to the curriculum for the BS in Biomedical Sciences, the department is now providing the Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) instruction for majors throughout the University. This involves more than 600 students per semester. Last fall, Dr. Terry Ravine, Clinical Assistant Professor, and Mrs. Sally Bru, Instructor, joined the faculty and both currently teach BMD 114 (A&P I) and BMD 115 (A&P II) using the large auditorium facilities of the college. We also welcome a new addition to the faculty this semester, Dr. Kari Dugger. Dr. Dugger is an Assistant Professor and comes to us from the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at UAB. Dr. Dugger’s research focuses on the role of immune contributions to exercise related asthma. Hopefully, you can visit with us along the way sometime and see the new operations first hand. If you haven’t already, don’t forget to let us know what you are doing by logging on to http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/survey.html and completing the information surveys.

Best wishes to all.

William B. Davis
wbdavis@usouthal.edu

IN THE NEWS:

Thanks and appreciation to Dr. Cindy Stanfield and her husband, Jim, for their contribution of new computers for each of the two fourth floor BMD classrooms.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Dr. Cindy Stanfield, Associate Professor and Pre-health Professional Advisor was reelected to serve as the Regional Director of the Pre-health Honor Society AED. She is also serving on the program committee for the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions biannual meeting in Baltimore.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Sally Bru gave a presentation to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science of Louisiana and Mississippi on Developing Effective Training: Simple Tips from an Instructional Designer. The conference was held in Biloxi, Mississippi, April 9, 2010. Dr. Mockett presented a poster entitled "A test of artificially selected, long-lived flies as a prospective model for further life extension in Drosophila melanogaster", at the 36th Annual Meeting of the American Aging Association, Portland, OR (June, 2010). Student coauthors on the poster were: Jordan Ciza, Shruti Puri, Mye Nguyen, Mehran Nisa, and Manami Hatanaka. Dr. Ravine and Dr. Mata, Department of Biology, presented a poster to the USA Faculty Development Council’s 17th Annual Research Forum, March 9, 2010. The poster was titled Sodium Arachidonate Effects on Dictyostelium discoideum Aggregation. Dr. Stanfield took 50 students to Tampa for the biannual AED meeting where she gave a workshop on applications to professional schools. She also gave a workshop on teaching physiology at the annual Human Anatomy and Physiology Society meeting in Denver. “Modification Of Specific Amino Acid Side Chains During Hydroxyl Radical-Dependent Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) Oxidation”. Julio F. Turrens, Ashley Mott, Lewis F. Pannell, Julio C. Ruiz. 2010 Annual meeting of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Anaheim, CA, April 24-28, 2010.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:


EMMA SPECTOR GREENFIELD RESEARCH FUND:

Thanks and appreciation to Dr. Michael Spector for his generous donation to establish the Emma Spector Greenfield Research Fund to support undergraduate research in the BMD Department. Natalie Courser and Tamil Jones worked this summer doing research and were the first to be supported through the Emma Spector Greenfield Research Fund.

Awards and Honors:

The following faculty were named “Top Prof” by the Mortar Board Honor Society.

Azin Agah
William B. Davis
Robin J. Mockett
Michael P. Spector
Cindy L. Stanfield
Julio F. Turrens

The following students have received the local T.G. Jackson - AED Scholarship:

Ayesha Jaleel
Benjamin Theobald
Devi Sampat
Nidal Omar

Biomedical Science majors currently make up about 30% of all prehealth students

Out of 59 Medical School Early Acceptance Program students, more than half (38) are Biomedical Science majors.

At least 10 of 2010 spring graduates have entered post baccalaureate health programs.

Currently there are 2000 pre-health advisees listed on PAWS account.
The Department of Cardiorespiratory Care has achieved another milestone. As of this fall semester, we have the largest student enrollment for both the junior and senior classes combined. Twenty-three juniors have enrolled and 24 seniors are poised to graduate in the spring of 2011. We attribute the increased enrollment to being located on campus which has given the Cardiorespiratory Care program a higher profile. As a consequence to the increased enrollment, we are using more hospitals in Baldwin County and in Pensacola as clinical affiliates. We are grateful for the willingness of these hospitals to have their respiratory therapy personnel work with our students. Being able to clinically rotate through hospitals in Baldwin County and Pensacola enables these institutions to recruit our students for future employment. At the same time, we are also grateful for the dedication and loyalty that the hospitals and respiratory therapy departments in Mobile continue to demonstrate by providing high quality clinical teaching for our students. We faculty recognize the vital and crucial roles that these clinical affiliates play in the development and education of our students. As many local respiratory therapists prepare for retirement, local RT department directors can take comfort from the fact that these larger graduating classes (which we expect will continue) will provide personnel for filling staff vacancies.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jenny Duncan McDaniel as a part-time faculty member of the Cardiorespiratory Care Department. Jenny graduated from USA in 2000 with a baccalaureate degree in Cardiopulmonary Sciences. Jenny will be teaching in the fall and spring semesters the neonatal/pediatric lecture (PBL) and clinical courses that were previously taught by Fred Hill. Jenny has worked in the NICU at USA’s Children & Women’s Hospital as a neonatal/pediatric specialist since 2002. We are proud to have a graduate of this program enter the educational ranks of this Department. In addition to her wealth of knowledge and vast clinical experience in this specialty, Jenny’s enthusiasm and excitement about teaching these courses will certainly benefit the students and the program.

Now that the University has committed to football, on behalf of the Department, I would like to invite alumni to come to our tailgating area at Jaguar home games. We set up in the parking lot south of Ladd-Peebles Stadium directly behind the scoreboard. We hope to see you there; otherwise, e-mail us periodically to inform us of what you are doing. Stay in touch.

Bill Wojciechowski, MS, RRT
wwojciec@usouthal.edu

The Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) graduated 66 EMT Basics and 44 Paramedics in academic year 2009-10. Enrollment in both the EMT Basic and Paramedic Programs continues to be robust. Twenty (20) new EMT Basic students and 32 new Paramedic students started this Fall (2010). Currently, there are a total of 110 students in the Program.

The Department’s Bachelor’s degree Program began just three years ago and has already graduated 12 students. The Program started eight (8) new students this Fall (2010) and currently has 21 students at the upper-division (300 -400 level classes). The department is planning several recruiting events this year across the state and region, including an information booth at the 1st annual State EMS Conference this October in Montgomery.

The Department’s grant program (AGEMSS) continues to have an impact on the EMS community in Region 6. Last year the Department received another grant from the Alabama Department of Public Health in the amount of $273,000 to continue in its role as the ADPH’s regional EMS field office for Region 6. Some of the activities conducted this year as part of the grant program are shown in the box to the right:

• Ensuring EMS Protocol training updates to over 1,240 EMTs and Paramedics across Region 6 (seven county area in Southwest Alabama).

• Ensuring National Incident Management System (NIMS) training to over 1,240 EMTs and Paramedics in Region 6.

• Providing Trauma System Orientation to over 1,400 EMS personnel in the Region.

• Conducting the second annual EMS Educational Conference for EMS Region 6 healthcare providers in September in Orange Beach, Alabama.

• Providing continuing education classes and refresher training across the Region, including a Legal/Documentation Course, a Psychological First Aid Course, and an EMT Paramedic refresher course, among others.
The Department recently received word from the ADPH that it has again secured grant funds in the amount of $245,000 for FY 2011 for AGEMSS (EMS Region 6) activities.

**Continuing Education Program**
As an approved Community Training Center (CTC) of the American Heart Association (AHA), the Department's Continuing Education Program has trained over 1,500 students this year. The CE Program provides training in the following areas: ACLS, PALS, and BLS (HCP and Heartsaver). The following shows the number of students trained this past year, by course type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Number of students trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACLS Provider</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLS Refresher</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALS Provider</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALS Refresher</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLS (HCP)</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHIEF RONNIE MORGAN APPOINTED FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER**
The Department is proud to announce its newest full-time faculty member, Mr. Ronnie Morgan. Ronnie is no stranger to the EMS Department, having served as a part-time instructor in the BS degree Program for the last three years, while at the same time working full-time as a District Chief for the Mobile Fire Rescue Department. Ronnie completed his Paramedic education at the University of South Alabama, his Bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis (Administration) and his Masters degree (Healthcare Management) from Troy University. Welcome aboard Ronnie.

David Burns
dburns@usouthal.edu

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**Occupational Therapy**

**Message from the Chair, Dr. Rebecca I. Estes**

The Department of Occupational Therapy is settling into the new Health Science building. Seems to take a year of teaching to be sure items are where they need to be in our new home. We welcomed the Class of 2012 with 25 students as they started off their experience this fall on main campus. Dr. Scaffa once again opened her home for a “Welcome Get-Together” that was enjoyed by all. We are pleased to have Ms. Paula Lowrey join our faculty as the new Fieldwork Coordinator, learn more about her in the section below, along with the activities and involvement of students and faculty in the department, university and community!

Dr. Rebecca I. Estes
riestes@usouthal.edu

Ms. Paula Lowrey

**Community Service**
The University of South Alabama, Department of Occupational Therapy continues to provide vision screening to underprivileged children in our communities through the Focus First program. The occupational therapy students continue to provide excellent leadership and give generously of their time to help our community. Additional service activities have been done through the student organizations, read below to see what we have been involved in!

**South Alabama Student Occupational Therapy Association** (SASOTA) is an organization for the current students in the occupational therapy program at South Alabama. Over the past year, SASOTA members have participated in several community events in order to promote occupational therapy and serve others through volunteering. Last fall and spring, members attended the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association conference in Orange Beach, AL and the American Occupational Therapy Association National conference in Orlando, FL. These conferences offer an opportunity for occupational therapy practitioners and students to receive continuing education while also networking with other therapists. Last September, SASOTA organized an event on campus for National Backpack Awareness Day. Members weighed USA student’s backpacks and handed out information on the prevention of chronic back pain. Ms. Wooster, one of the occupational therapy instructors, organized a donation of toys and equipment to be sent to Nicaragua for an orphanage. Donations included children’s clothing, toys, pediatric wheelchairs and standers, specialized bathroom equipment, hospital chairs, and furniture. As an organization, SASOTA participated in the Martin Luther King Day of service in Mobile. All members went to a house in the community to build a wheelchair ramp customized for the needs of an elderly lady and child with cerebral palsy. The Autism Walk at Hank Aaron Stadium provided an opportunity for several members to serve food to others participating in the walk and assist with handling children on and off the blow-up slides. Bounce for Autism Open House is an event where autistic children can play at Pump IT Up in...
Occupational Therapy continued...

Mobile, raising awareness for autism. Members of SASOTA volunteered to play with the children and chaperone at this event. Dr. Kathy Gifford continues to serve as the faculty liaison for this group. SASOTA has stayed very involved in many activities and service projects over the past year and plans on doing the same in the future.

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), the occupational therapy honor society, is dedicated to promoting the profession of occupational therapy and increasing scholarly excellence among its members. PTE was involved in several activities throughout the 2010 Summer and Fall semesters. During the summer, the members participated in the Ronald McDonald House Charities Program. Members of the organization prepared a meal for the local Ronald McDonald House, delivered the food to them, and ate dinner with the children and their families. In addition, members of the organization have been and are planning to be involved in several health fairs throughout Mobile and the surrounding areas. Three of these are scheduled for October and November. In August, all members of the organization helped organize and run Camp Odyssey, which is an overnight camp for children who are experiencing grief. The members had various roles, such as counselors, buddies for the children, and helping with setup and activities. PTE was also involved with JagFest, at which they offered giveaways and increased campus awareness of the Occupational Therapy program. Dr. Rebecca I. Estes serves as the faculty liaison for PTE.

Faculty Recognition & Presentations
Please congratulate the faculty for their continuing dedicated work!

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa will be presenting at two conferences during the spring semester on the impact of the Gulf Oil Spill Disaster on health and daily life. One presentation will be at the International Critical Incident Stress Conference in Baltimore, MD in February and the other will be at the American Occupational Therapy Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA in April. The presentations are based on research done in Gulf Coast communities using qualitative interviews and the Occupational Self-Assessment.

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa was invited to be one of three editors of the upcoming 12th edition of Willard and Spackman’s Occupational Therapy. This historical occupational therapy text was first published in 1947 and is currently used in 75% of occupational therapy programs nationwide. The new edition is expected to be published in 2012.

Ms. Paula Lowrey is our new faculty member, assuming the role of Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. She comes to us with a Masters degree in Occupational Therapy and a varied clinical background including Home Health, Public Schools and Pediatrics. We welcome her and hope you can stop in or give her a call to welcome her as well!

Dr. Rebecca Estes and Jada Jack published an article in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy titled: Documenting progress: Hand therapy treatment shift from biomechanical to occupational adaptation.

Message from the Chair, Dr. Zari Aliabadi
The biggest news around here is students, as always. The class of 2010 graduated in July and the class of 2011 started on their clinical rotations in August. The class of 2012 matriculated in May and witnessed both events while going through their first semester of PA school to finish it with flying colors. The class of 2009 meanwhile achieved an aggregate pass rate of 97%. The faculty and staff have made some news too. Ms. Jamie Lett left the position of the Admissions Coordinator of the PA Department to join Dr. Cindy Stanfield in the Division’s Pre-Health Profession Advising Office in June and the department welcomed Ms. Karen Lasarge to fill her position. Ms. Cheryl Vrettos became Mrs. Cheryl Click and Mr. Todd Smith was recognized by the class of 2010 as the Didactic Instructor of the Year. We thanked Ms. Cassie Bullock, PA-C, one of our graduates (class of 2007) and a previous Crucible guest writer, and Dr. Rosa Vidal, the Medical Director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of the USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital, by presenting them with the Outstanding Support of PA Education Award during the Convocation Ceremonies for the Class of 2010. Ms. Erin Lunn, president of the Class of 2010, and Ms. Gail Hurley received the “Outstanding PA Student” and “the Student Service” Awards, respectively, during the same ceremonies. The departmental faculty and staff and I have spent the year getting ready for our upcoming site visit for accreditation maintenance by ARC-PA.

We were busy, indeed, but not as busy as our guest writer, Mark Minton, RN, MHS, PA-C, a member of the graduating class of 2008 who recently returned from Kuwait after serving 12 months with the National Guard. We were delighted to welcome Mark back.

Zari Aliabadi
zaliabadi@usouthal.edu
Mark D. Minton, MHS, PA-C, RN

July 25, 2008 will forever be a hallmark day in my life. It was the day of my classes’ PA school ceremony. We had finally made it! I was challenged in ways that I could not even imagine prior to beginning studies in 2006. I had dreamed of all sorts of ways of how I could use this training, and yet God had even bigger plans for all that knowledge that the faculty had skillfully imparted to me for the past 27 months. Little did I know that the next date to be permanently etched into my life would come July 4, 2009. This is the day that I and almost 200 other Alabama National Guardsmen would land at an airport in Kuwait.

We were sent there as a unit to provide support to Camp Buerhing, one of the camps in the northern Kuwaiti desert. I was there to provide medical support to my fellow soldiers, my very first mission. It didn’t take me long to realize that all the summer heat in Mobile was nothing in comparison to Kuwait. It would be a few months before our daytime high would fall below 120+ degrees. The TMC (Troop Medical Clinic) where I was privileged to work was air-conditioned, as well as, my living space. God had provided my very own stream in the desert. Surrounded by some of the best physicians in the world, I began seeing not only my fellow soldiers from Alabama, but soldiers from all over the nation as they stopped at our camp on their way to Iraq (slightly north of our position). The challenge was immense. Everything from H1N1 (yes, even in Kuwait) to STDs to full cardiac arrests came through our doors. Day after day I learned something new. The months flew by. Thanksgiving and Christmas came and went. In January I was tasked with additional duties. I would provide medical support to my battalion, the TMC and an additional battalion from Minnesota who was also stationed at Camp Buerhing. In total, that brought over 1500 people with an additional 400+ deployment health assessments to my hands.

Had it not been for the expertise of the PA faculty and the grace of God I could not have made it through this time in my life. I am so grateful for every hour that each faculty member spent preparing lectures and answering my millions of questions. I am not the first, nor will I be the last PA graduate who will serve in U.S forces overseas. Because of this, there have been and will continue to be countless lives all over the world touched by hands that were trained at the University of South Alabama.

First Lieutenant Minton, left, with Lieutenant General Webster while serving in Kuwait

The Sick Call Tent in Kuwait

Physical Therapy

Message from the Chair, Dr. Dennis Fell

As always, things continue to change and get better around here. From over 280 applicants, we admitted a full class for Fall 2010 and they have the highest average GPA and GREs in recent years. Dr. Wei Liu joined our faculty in February upon the retirement of Dr. Wall. Dr. Liu has a strong background in engineering and biomechanics and his dissertation involved 3-D motion analysis. From College and Departmental funds, we’ve been able to equip a $95,000 seven-camera motion analysis lab in our new space including force plates and EMG capability. Noel & I will be in South Korea for a 10-month teaching sabbatical from Aug 2010 – May 2011. I’ll be teaching at Daegu University in their undergraduate and graduate PT programs; and we’ll be living in the dorms :-) . Those who want to follow our experience can check out our blog: http://fellkoreasabbatical.blogspot.com/

While I’m away, Dr. John Jefferson will be serving as the Interim Chair and Dr. Jean Irion will continue as Asst Chair for Academics.

안녕히계세요 (Goodbye),
Dr. Dennis Fell
dfell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu
http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pt/

And Check out our new YouTube Video about the department and new building:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX-vrbCV2pE
Physical Therapy continued...

**DR. WALL’S RETIREMENT IN DEC. 2009. RETIREMENT RECEPTION 1/29**

From his initial education in London, his Ph.D. studies led him to an interest in human motion, particularly human gait that propelled him into the PT education community. His long career in teaching included Univ of Guelph, Ontario Canada, the PT Faculty at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia (where he first met Giovanni De Domenico, John Jefferson and George Turnbull – all of whom eventually had connections to USA). In 1989, Jim was recruited to the USA PT Program, specifically to teach the Human Gait analysis and develop the first student research program. He has been greatly successful in that endeavor with 10-15 research projects being completed by student groups each year, many of which have had results presented at peer-review conferences and publications. His portfolio includes 62 peer-reviewed publications and 9 book chapters, not counting the numerous other publications, conference presentations, and invited lectures, plus nine funded research grants, including a $90K NIH grant. He has reviewed and served on editorial boards for many journals and was Associate Editor for the international journal Gait and Posture and Journal of the Ergonomics Society of South Africa. He has given invited lectures in Australia, UK (Waterloo, Rhodes, Glasgow, Edinborough), Canada, USA, Kuwait, and Norway. He also served as a CAPTE Commissioner from 1999-2003. His honors have included Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Scholar of the Year, 1992; Visiting Professorships at Univ of Sydney and Kuwait University, and USA COAHP Faculty Research Award. Dr. Wall's first grandson Conor James Wall was born in California May 2010 and they are getting along quite well together! We hope you'll help us honor Dr. Wall and support the department. Please contribute to the scholarship! Now at around $5000, it needs to be at $10,000 to be self-sustaining with an annual award. You can send your tax deductible donation to USA Dept of Physical Therapy, 307 N University Blvd, HAHN 2011, Mobile, AL 36688.

**DR. GIOVANNI (GION) DE DOMENICO: JAN. 14, 1949 - APR. 10, 2010**

Dr. Giovanni De Domenico, Ph.D., Department Chair from 1994 -1999, died Saturday, April 10, 2010. Dr. De Domenico received his Ph.D. in physiology at the School of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and a master’s degree in applied psychology from University of Aston, Birmingham, United Kingdom. Dr. De Domenico’s academic career spanned a total of 35 years assisting students to achieve their professional goals of becoming physical therapists. He enjoyed a rich, international career doing what he loved, including Professor and Chair of the DPT Program at Univ. of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio 2000 – 2009, Director of the School of Physiotherapy at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, and served as a faculty member in physical therapy programs at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia, The School of Physiotherapy, Sydney Australia, and several well-recognized schools of physiotherapy in the United Kingdom. Dr. De Domenico was an internationally recognized expert in the field of electrophysical agents in the provision of physical therapy. He authored numerous papers, books, and monographs and presented his work all over the world. He was a great friend and mentor and will be greatly missed in this life.

**DR. FELL AND DEPARTMENT AWARDED “PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER” AWARD**

Dr. Fell and the PT Department have received the “Patriotic Employer” Award from The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Jeremy Fletcher, a National Guard reservist, and DPT student graduating in May 2010 nominated the department based on the support and accommodations provided for Jeremy as his admission to PT school was deferred when he was called to active duty in 2006.

**DR. JOHN JEFFERSON NAMED A 2010 USA TOP PROF**

Dr. John Jefferson was announced as a recipient of the 2010 Top Prof Award! He was nominated by Year-I DPT student Alicia Miles. John has also recently completed his Ph.D. degree through Rocky Mountain University. Way to go John! Eh!

**PAIGE PLEASH, PT (CLASS OF 1980) INDUCTED AS THE 2010 COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME!!!**

The Department is very proud that our nominee was selected as the 2010 inductee into the College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Hall of Fame at the March Awards Banquet. Paige Pleash PT, celebrating his 30th year as a PT, graduated in 1980 with his BSPT. He has gone on to found several companies, including Encore Rehabilitation through which he now oversees over 300 full-time employees. In addition to his professional achievements, Paige has contributed significantly in community service including the United Cerebral Palsy Board of Directors and currently...
President of the America’s Junior Miss Board of Directors. Paige is a real gentleman! Throughout his effective professional career and business achievements, he remains extremely personable and is devoted to his family (wife Carolyn and children) and his parents Mr. & Mrs. Jim Plash. Well deserved Paige! Graduates like you make us proud!

**DIGBY WATT MPT (CLASS OF 2002) PGA GOLF TOUR PT**

Digby Watt, a 2002 alumnus, gave a presentation to Year-I, Year-II, and Year-III on April 19th on his way to New Orleans for a PGA tournament. He shared his career path and provided excellent suggestions to the students to intentionally pursue a profession development plan and take advantage of every opportunity. On a side note, Digby’s first child was due to be born around May 14th!

**USA PHYSICAL THERAPY ALUMNI “FACEBOOK” GROUP**

The Facebook group “USA Physical Therapy Alumni” was started in Fall 2008 by Dr. Fell as an opportunity to enhance social networking (in this Web 2.0 world) among USA PT graduates. In the past year, there are now 272 of the 850 PT alumni who are part of the online social networking group, including one person from the very first PT class. If you have a Facebook account and he hasn’t located you yet, please sign up and request to join the group. It’ll be a fun way to keep in touch with your classmates and share photos! Please join us in this new interactive venue. When you log into Facebook (www.facebook.com), and open your account, click on “Groups” and search for “USA 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. Help us find other USA alumni and invite them to join the group. Who knows who you might find there? You can add archive photos from your PT school years!

**ALUMNI UPDATES:**

The latest information Dr. Fell has gathered on the alumni listed below is now posted on our department website Alumni page. Let us know about your promotion, certification, move, new job, grandchildren… We want to include you in the next issue! Also help us get in touch with other alumni who are disconnected. Go to the website for recent news on


**WEB-BASED DPT PROGRAM FOR LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS PHASING OUT!**

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program for licensed physical therapists (tDPT) program grew really quickly, with over 80 PTs who have been enrolled in this fully web-based program. An administrative decision has led to a phase-out of the program. The current students will complete the program by 2011. Congratulations to the recent graduates of the online tDPT program. Spring 2010 tDPT graduates will include: Richard Barletta, Sarasota, FL; Greg Barone, Suffolk, VA; Diana Carman, Watkinsville, GA; Dirk Carson, Toney, AL; Susan Cato, San Jose, CA; Jeanne Egan, West Hyannisport, MA; Charlena Hassell, Greensboro, NC; K. Bridget Jedlovec, Huntsville, AL; Anthony Salafia, Turlock, CA.

**FACULTY AWARDS/HONORS:**

Dr. Jean Irion was the recipient of the 2010 College of Allied Health Professions Faculty Service Award at the March Awards Banquet. Jean has been exemplary in her service at all levels including community, University, APTA state chapter, national APTA, APTA specialty sections (Aquatics, Sports, Women’s Health) and specialty councils.

**USA PT ALUMNI SOCIETY MEETINGS**

If you would like to be part of an Alumni Advisory Group to facilitate alumni activities and advise the department, and also plan several regional alumni reunions, contact Dr. Fell at <dfell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu> to become a part of the fun. Also, you might have the address or phone for an alumnus with whom we have lost contact. Call (251)434-3575 or email <ptdept@jaguar1.usouthal.edu> . We encourage each of you to join the USA Alumni Association <http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni> and specify your request to become a member of the PT Alumni Society (no extra fee). This will help to support our alumni events. Help us plan an alumni event in your area!!
Message from the Chair, Dr. Charles Newell

Greetings From the Chair:

With the 2010-2011 academic year well underway, the Department of Radiologic Sciences program begins its 34th year of operation! Thirty-eight first-year students were admitted to the Certificate program, and will join thirty-four second-year students who are already looking forward to graduation. Enrollment in our B.S. program remains stable with a current enrollment of: MRI (5), Ultrasound (4), Radiation Therapy (17), CT (17), and Mammography (6). The combined Departmental enrollment for the fall semester is 109.

At this writing, we have not received a final report from the ARRT concerning the Registry status for the Class of 2010. However, the Class of 2009 received a 96% first-time pass rate, and we are certainly proud of these graduates. Graduation for the Class of 2010 was held at the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center on July 29, 2010. Thirty-four students graduated, and the Center was filled to capacity. Dr. Newell served as the guest speaker on behalf of Ms. Debra Durick who was attending funeral services in Birmingham. The speech was written by Ms. Durick, and was well-received by all in attendance. During graduation ceremonies, those graduates recognized for academic and clinical achievement were Briony Mitchell, Graduate Student Award, Dennis Cao, Dean's Award, and Luke Grissett received the Mallinckrodt Award. Ms. Veronica Kren, R.T.(R) received the Clinical Adjunct Instructor of the Year Award. Ms. Kren serves the Department, as so many others do, as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor, and she is employed at Thomas Hospital. Once again, our appreciation goes to the 2010 class officers who made significant contributions via support for their fellow class members and the Department. The 2010 class officers were: Danielle Anderson, President, Briony Mitchell, Vice-President, and Luke Grissett and Cord Fallon, Co-Treasurers. The Department's scholarship fund received $2,802 in donations during the USA Annual Fund Drive in 2010.

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RECOGNITION:

As chair of the Department of Radiologic Sciences for the past thirty-five years, I have long assumed that I would be the first faculty member in the Department to retire. Well, I was wrong. Following 25 years of dedicated service to the Department of Radiologic Sciences, Ms. Debra Anne Durick will retire at the conclusion of the fall semester, 2010.

To appreciate Debra's tenure in the department, as well as her jovial nature, it is probably best to begin with a brief history of her experiences in the department. I met Debra in the spring of 1985 when she came to Mobile to interview for a faculty position. During her visit, an oversight occurred, which to some extent, may serve to characterize our professional relationship during all these years. At the time of Debra's interview, we were a little less formal in our approach to conducting faculty searches, and one or two of the search practices now employed were overlooked. One such practice that continues to stand out in my mind was the failure to pay Debra for her travel expenses. A few months later Debra was appointed to the position of instructor. As I recall, within a few months after her employment Debra mentioned the oversight to me. In fact, she has mentioned the oversight to me on numerous occasions over the years in what I have interpreted to be “in a kidding/joking fashion.” Oh how long I have wished that oversight had never occurred. This brief remembrance is used in the present context as an example of Debra's tenacity. Extending this description of one aspect of Debra's personality a bit further, her tenacity is seen in her approach to most everything she does. I would add that her tenacity is a positive attribute as she always stands up for what she believes. As all of our faculty will attest to, when Debra is defending a particular practice or procedure, attempting to dissuade her can be a formidable task. In this regard, Debra has been a most valuable participant during numerous faculty meetings.

To say that Debra has witnessed many changes in our program over the years would be an understatement. She joined the program when we were housed in mobile homes, which at the time, were euphemistically referred to as portable buildings. Two classrooms and four small offices housed the entire department. Since Debra's office did not have a window, a rectangular hole was created in one of the walls, and a small glass pane was installed. Debra could now look through another office, which had a window, while receiving a small view of the outside world. Seven years later, we moved to the old Providence Hospital and one would have thought that we had arrived at the Promised Land in comparison to the aging "portable buildings" we had recently vacated. In many respects, the day of relocation reminded me somewhat of what I imagined the California gold rush must have been like. Get there and stake out your territory was the order of the day. I also remember that Debra was on vacation at the time, and completely missed that glorious experience. Once again, Debra did not have a window in her office, nor did she receive one during the next 20+ years of occupancy. We did, however, gain four energized x-ray labs. Our “new-old” space allowed the department to grow, and did we grow! Of course, Debra, along with her tenacity, played an important role in the continued development of the program. In this regard, I am unable to even estimate the number of late night hours devoted to planning, modifying and re-modifying the curriculum, clinical practices, prepare accreditation and re-accreditation documents, to name a few, during those years at the “Springhill Campus.” I do remember, however, that Debra was always there.

With a sense of nostalgia, we moved once again to the real Promised Land. Yes, after 30+ years, the department finally arrived on the main campus of the University. During our years at the Springhill Campus we succeeded in arranging classrooms and labs to our liking. Thus the new building meant starting over again. However, our labs and offices were far superior to our former location, and we have now come to think of
the Health Sciences Building as home. I should add that Debra has finally acquired a large window in her office. Since Debra played an important role in the initial planning of the new building, I have come to view our relocation as another accomplishment Debra can add to her long list of accomplishments. She has published numerous articles in referred journals, held offices in the ALSRT, she is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, recipient of the Charles L. Brooks Award at UAB and was named an Outstanding Young Women of America in 1986. She also holds advanced registries in Mammography and CT. These accomplishments were recognized by the ALSRT in 2009 when Debra received a lifetime membership in the ALSRT. Debra has indeed experienced a rewarding and successful career.

With Debra’s tenacity in mind, I am sure it will come as no surprise that Debra and I have not always agreed on a number of issues. In short, there have been a few bumps in the roads we have crossed over during the past 25 years, so to expect complete harmony in our long relationship would be unrealistic, and even counterproductive on any number of levels, e.g., meetings involving the decision-making process. However, I would be remiss in my tribute to her if I did not say that she has always been a friend and a colleague. She is without doubt dedicated to her profession and the patients she has encountered over the years. Above all, Debra is a great supporter of our program, and she thoroughly enjoys working with her students. If I had to guess what Debra would miss most during her retirement years, I would say she would miss the day-to-day interaction with her students. I say this because, although Debra has played a key role in the development of numerous students, those same students have also played an important and endearing role in Debra’s professional life. While Debra will be sorely missed, we all wish her the best in the years ahead.

OTHER NEWS

Alpha Eta is a national allied health organization, which recognizes the academic accomplishments of students completing allied health programs. This year four students graduating from our B.S. program were inducted into Alpha Eta. Congratulations go to Robert Preston, Kayla Morris, Ashley Ingraham Williams and Ireley Hanne who are this year’s new members in Alpha Eta. They were officially inducted during the College of Allied Health Professional’s annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on March 26, 2010.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES:

Ms. Cathy Cooper:
Currently serving as President of the ALSRT.
Imaging Pelvic Fractures, ALSRT presentation, April 16, 2010, Birmingham.
Imaging Pelvic Fractures, eRADIMAGING, 2010.
Medical Ethics and Patient Care, Annual Registry Review, March 2010.

Ms. Patricia Brewer:
Currently serving as Vice President of the ALSRT.

Ms. Debra Durick:

Mr. Chucri Jalkh:
Diagnostic Contrast Media, Annual Registry Review, March 2010.
Radiation Protection and Radiation Biology, Annual Registry Review, March

Dr. Charles Newell:
Currently serving as Legislative Liaison, of the ALSRT.

Imaging Receptors, Annual Registry Review, March 2010.
Radiologic Physics, Annual Registry Review, March 2010.
Radiographic Exposure Factors, Annual Registry Review, March 2010.

Ms. Cherie Pohlmann:
Fred Factor for Radiographers, ALSRT presentation, March 2010.

As alumni, please remember, you are cordially invited to visit our web site at www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/radiologicsciences. As always, we encourage you to consider assisting other students in our program through donations to our scholarship program. Arrangements to make donations to the Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Fund can be made by contacting Ms. Ginny Turner, Associate Director of Development, at (251) 460-7032, or the Department of Radiologic Sciences, (251) 445-9346. Regardless of the amount, your support will be sincerely appreciated. Alumni are 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, 307 N. University Blvd. – HAHN, Mobile, AL 36688-0002. Again, let us hear from you! Best wishes to all.

Charles Newell
cnewell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu
Message from the Chair, Dr. Robert Moore

We have been in our new facilities for about one year. As you will see below, that one year has brought several changes to the department. One of those changes is a new mailing address: Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, 5721 USA Dr. N., Room 1119, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688. In December 2009 the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology graduated one Ph.D. student, Dr. Keri Buck. Keri is now working in the Escambia County (Florida) school system. Her faculty mentor was Dr. Julie Estis. In May 2010 we graduated 15 students with MSSLP degrees and 9 students with Au.D. degrees. All of our students in both majors have passed the Praxis exam, and all report being employed. In May we also graduated two Au.D./Ph.D. students, Dr. Amy Horne and Dr. Alisha Jones. Dr. Horne is employed with the Gulf Coast Veterans Administration Health Care system. Dr. Jones has joined the faculty at Auburn University-Montgomery. Dr. Horne’s faculty mentor was Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey, and Dr. Jones’s faculty mentor was Dr. Robert Moore.

Sixteen undergraduate students also graduated with degrees in Speech and Hearing Science in May. In August 2010 the department welcomed 20 new students to the MSSLP program, 8 new students to the Au.D. program, and 1 student to the Ph.D. program. This brings our totals to 45 SLP graduate students, 30 AUD graduate students, and 6 Ph.D. students. On September 1, 2010, Beth Hardaway retired as the Clinical Coordinator for Speech Pathology after 31 years of service to the department and university. She will be sorely missed by faculty, staff, and students. The Clinical Coordinator for Speech Pathology position is now in the capable hands of Carolyn Byrd.

FACULTY CHANGES

In January we welcomed a new faculty member: Dr. Tara Davis is an Assistant Professor in audiology. Dr. Davis is originally from Louisiana but spent most of her childhood living in Virginia. She received her M.C.D. from the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2009. Her specialty area is auditory neuroscience.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Beverly, BL, Gires, RM, & Buck, KL (2009). First-grade reading gains following enrichment: Phonics plus decodable texts compared to authentic literature read aloud. Reading Improvement. 46(4), 191-205.

Dagenais, PA, Adams, EM, & Riddle, J. (2010). Effects of reverberation upon the perception of dysarthric speech. Journal of Medical Speech Language Pathology, 18(2), 27-34.


STUDENT RECOGNITION

During graduation ceremonies in May several student awards were presented. Audrey Veren – Outstanding MSSLP student, Kristin DeLauney – Outstanding AuD student, Amy Horne – Outstanding PhD student. Each year one student pursuing an MSSLP degree, one student pursuing an AuD 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, Dr. Marjorie Faircloth. These scholarships are funded by donations from alumni, friends, and faculty of the department. 2010 honorees are: Brianne Harbison - MSSLP; Brittany Pierson - AuD; Ashley Guy - undergraduate. 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. The first winner of this award is: Semeena Khalique.

FACULTY RECOGNITION

Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey has received an LRP grant from NIH.
Dr. Kelli Evans has received an Advancing Academic-Research Careers Award from ASHA.
Dr. Tonia Beverly has been appointed a Board Member of ABESPA.
Dr. Tim Holston is presently serving as Vice President of the Alabama Academy of Audiology.
Dr. Robert Moore has been elected to the Coordinator position of the ASHA Special Interest Division 6, Hearing and Hearing Disorders: Research and Diagnostics.
Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey has been appointed the Graduate Coordinator for Audiology in the department.
Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey has been appointed to serve on the Gold Standards Summit Action Items Task Force of the American Academy of Audiology.
Dr. Julie Estis and Dr. Elizabeth Adams are representing the department and college on the USA Faculty Senate. Dr. Estis serves on the Executive Council as the Secretary. Dr. Adams is the Chair of the Salary and Fringe Benefits committee.
THE CRUCIBLE
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Websites of interest to Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni

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Visit us online at http://www.usouthal.edu/alliedhealth. Contact us to receive your copy of “The Crucible”. Send us your contact information so that we may add you to our mailing list.