Greetings from the faculty, staff and students in the College of Allied Health Professions. As the reports from our departments in this edition of the Crucible indicate, our students continue to excel in terms of their acceptance into graduate study, their performance on national and state qualifying/licensure examinations in their disciplines, and their leadership roles in state and national professional organizations. This is due to both the very high quality of students who are accepted into our programs and to the dedication and quality of our faculty. While the economic environment in the country has caused a serious reduction in the percent of college graduates who find employment upon graduation, the health care professions are still in great demand and many of our students have employment contracts even before graduation. These data are not lost on students selecting careers to pursue and once again all of our departments have enjoyed significant increases in the number of applications which, in turn, creates a highly competitive admissions process resulting in a truly outstanding student body.

One downside of the increased demand for our programs is that many well qualified applicants may not be selected for the professional programs of their choice. In order to be responsive to the ever increasing need for healthcare workers in the State and country, the College offers undergraduate interdisciplinary tracks in our Professional Health Sciences degree program that was designed to provide a career path for individuals interested in health care careers in administrative roles, health informatics, and other health care industry related positions. The first class of students was accepted into this track in the Fall 2011.

We hope that you enjoy reading the news from the departments included in the Crucible. I know that all of our departments would appreciate hearing from you and please let us know if your contact information changes. Best wishes for the New Year and please contact me if I can be of assistance.

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

In last year’s issue of the Crucible I reported that the college had implemented a new track (Health Informatics) for the BS degree in Health Sciences. This year we expanded this option by adding a new track with emphasis in Management. The idea is to allow students to have more options that allow them to use most of their credits if they want to change course during college.

There have been some changes in the Advising office. Ms. Andrea Branch left USA to take a job at Auburn University. We wish the best for Ms. Branch in this new stage in her career.

We are also happy to introduce to you the new advisor for our college: Mr. James A. Hunt. Mr. Hunt received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a Master of Arts in Corporate and Public Communication from our institution. Before joining the advising office, Mr. Hunt worked in the Office of New Student Recruitment (a division of the USA Office of Admission) and in the College of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Hunt’s primary responsibilities include advising undergraduates in the areas of pre-Occupational Therapy, pre-Physical Therapy and Radiologic Sciences.

We wish you the best for the upcoming year. As always, keep us informed if you change your email address so we can remain in contact with you, and contact us if we can help you in any way.

Julio F. Turrens, Ph.D., jtturrens@southalabama.edu

Mr. James A. Hunt
As the new Development Officer of Health Science Development, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and let you know how honored I am to be a part of the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health family. Over the past couple of months, I have experienced an enthusiastic spirit within the college that is undeniable and quite contagious! In addition, I have been most impressed by the loyalty and dedication of the faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

In May of 2013, the University of South Alabama will commemorate fifty years of academic excellence. As we approach this exciting milestone, the future and quality of the education that students experience is increasingly dependent on private gifts and contributions. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary, I encourage you to consider honoring your department’s academic achievements by investing in the future of your alma mater. Your generosity will ensure the superior education essential in shaping a new generation of extraordinary health care professionals. For more information about the Fiftieth Anniversary Campaign and ways you can honor your department in the form of a private contribution, please contact me directly at Robertson@usouthal.edu or 251.414-8065.

Jennifer Robertson

Message from the Chair, Dr. William B. Davis

We are well into the fall semester 2012 and the BMD program continues to be a solid major for the University. The program has 190 freshmen enrollees this fall. The total number of BMD majors is 521. Biomedical Science majors currently make up about 30% of all prehealth students across the institution. Out of 59 Medical School Early Acceptance Program students, there are 42 Biomedical Science majors. At least 28 of the 2012 spring BMD graduates who applied have entered post baccalaureate health programs. There are 15 senior BMD majors completing an Honors Research Thesis this year. It is also noted that 30% of the 172 University Honors students are BMD Majors.

We welcome a new addition to the faculty this semester, Dr. Inna Shokolenko. Dr. Shokolenko comes to us from the College of Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor and will be teaching Human Anatomy in the fall and spring for the BMD Department, as well as Human Gross Anatomy for the Physical Therapy Department and Physician Assistant Studies Graduate programs during the fall and summer semesters. Dr. Shokolenko’s research interest focuses on mitochondria and mitochondrial DNA biology: damage, repair, degradation, mutation, and mitochondrial diseases.

William B. Davis; wdavis@usouthal.edu

IN THE NEWS

Pat Capps Covey Biomedical Sciences Scholarship

The recipients of the Pat Capps Covey Biomedical Sciences Scholarship are Thomas George and Daniel Cales. Both of these students are upper division Biomedical Science majors. Applications for this scholarship are accepted during the spring and are awarded the following fall semester. The award is allocated toward tuition and fees.

Several BMD majors received research funding this summer. Josie Baumgarten received a Summer Research grant from the Emma Spector Greenfield Biomedical Sciences Undergraduate Research Fund. Kathleen Strunk (Dr. Spector), Parker Chastain (Dr. Dugger), Kacie Watson (Dr. Dugger), and Daniel McAndrews (Dr. Thulasiraman) received Summer Research grants from the UCUR Summer Research Program.

T.G. Jackson – AED Scholarship:
The following BMD students have received the T.G. Jackson - AED Scholarship: Mihika Batavia, Lucas Boone, Michael Grant, Sarah Guisinger, Jessica Houston, Hetal Patel, Umair Savani, Ankur Singh. Information on the T.G. Jackson- AED Scholarship can be obtained from Dr. Stanfield’s office in HAHN 4004.
Biomedical Sciences continued ...

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS
Dr. Mockett and Dr. Spector both co-authored publications this year:


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS
Dr. Kari Dugger presented a poster on “A role for Beta 2-adrenergic receptor signaling in the exercise-induced re-distribution of Th cells within an asthmatic lung” at the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society 2012 annual meeting in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Robin Mockett attended the American Aging Association, 41st Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, TX in June 2012 and gave a presentation on “Life extension in the fly: are the results reproducible?”

Dr. Cindy L. Stanfield gave presentations at two workshops:

Dr. Padma Thulasiraman gave a presentation on “Involvement of FABP5 and PPARβ/δ in EGFR-induced mammary carcinoma cell growth” at the Mitchell Cancer Institute Seminar, April 2012.

Dr. Julio F. Turrens gave a presentation on “A reviewer’s experience detecting data fabrication in grants and publications: advice to colleagues”, at the Quest for Research Excellence Conference, Office of Research Integrity in Washington DC, March 2012.

AWARDS AND HONORS
Dr. Davis was awarded the Didactic Instructor of the Year honor by the Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2012 at their graduation ceremony in July 2012.

The following faculty members were designated by a student sponsor for the “Top Prof” award by the Mortar Board Honor Society for 2011-2012: **Robin J. Mockett, Cindy L. Stanfield, Julio F. Turrens**.

Dr. Stanfield was elected President of the National Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) Health Preprofessional Honor Society for 2012.

Dr. Stanfield will also be the site coordinator for the 25th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup at Municipal Park on September 15th.

Cardiorespiratory Care

Message from the Chair, Mr. William Wojciechowski
Hello Alumni,

Well, this program is entering its 32nd year, as the University prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. If you are in the area, please avail yourself to the festivities that the University has planned to commemorate this milestone.

Speaking of milestones, the Department has equaled its largest fall enrollment in history. Twenty-eight (28) juniors entered the program this fall. At the same time, 23 seniors are poised to graduate in the spring of 2013. Consequently, a grand total of 51 students is a new record! CRC graduate, Thomas Lamey, RRT (class of 2008), has the distinguished honor of being the first student to enroll in the Master’s degree program offered through the College of Education and this Department. Our Master’s degree program is designed to prepare RRTs to teach respiratory therapy in BS and AS degree programs.

To accommodate the increased enrollment, the program has added the following three hospitals from Mississippi as clinical affiliates: Singing River, Gulfport Memorial, and Ocean Springs. We welcome these facilities to our fold of clinical affiliates, which bring our total of hospitals where students engage in clinical education to 12. As always, we appreciate the vital role that these hospitals serve toward making this program successful.

The faculty remain busy, as David Chang has completed the manuscript for the 4th edition of his textbook entitled, *Clinical Applications of Mechanical Ventilation*, and I have submitted the final manuscript for the 5th edition of *Respiratory Care Sciences: An Integrated Approach*. The Department faculty have eight poster presentations scheduled for the AARC meeting in New Orleans in November.

Tim Op’t Holt and Bill Pruitt continue to work as asthma educators.

Special congratulations are extended to Bill Pruitt, who has recently been recognized by the AARC to become a Fellow of the American Association of Respiratory Care (FAARC). The AARC recognizes members who have performed admirably and contributed to the growth and strength of the profession over time. Great job Bill!

Now the sad news. Deanna will retire this December after 29 years of dedicated service to this Department and to the students who have entered this program. Her work and contributions to this Department have been beyond description. She has been directly
responsible for the success of this program, and the achievements that we faculty have enjoyed. Because of her organizational abili-
ties, dedication to the Department, and high quality productivity, she enabled us to pursue a variety of academic and profession-
related projects outside the University. Her contributions and accomplishments are too numerous to delineate here. Deanna, “You will
surely be missed!!!”

Now that we have wiped away our tears, as mentioned in some of the previous fall letters to you, our alumni, we tailgate in the park-
ing lot located on the south end of Ladd-Peabees Stadium at all the Jaguar football home games. We encourage you to stop by to say
“hello” if you are in the neighborhood. We also wish all of you continued success in you careers. Please remain in communication with us.

Regards, Bill

Bill Wojciechowski; wwojciec@usouthal.edu

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**Emergency Medical Services**

**Message from the Chair, Mr. David Garmon**

Main Campus...Here We Come! After forty years on the USA Brookley campus, plans are in the works for our Department to relocate before the spring semester to the 4th floor of the former cancer center/clinical building. We wish to thank Dr. Franks and Dr. Talbott for everything in accomplishing this move. Our faculty and staff are excited to join our colleagues on the main campus and to be more accessible to all USA students. An open house will be announced later.

BS / EMS Degree Program: As the program continues to grow, this December the Alabama Commis-
sion on Higher Education (ACHE) will vote on the viability for the degree program. The program viability study was submitted in September and the University administration anticipates approval during the De-
cember meeting in Montgomery. Currently, of the ten institutions offering a baccalaureate degree in the nation, our program is the third largest. Information on the program is located at [www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems) or contact Ronald Morgan, Program Director [remorgan@usouthal.edu](mailto:remorgan@usouthal.edu)

BS / Professional Health Sciences Degree Program: Our Department is the new home for the Professional Health Sciences De-
gree 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 or allows students in pre-professional programs that change their mind about specific profes-
sional degrees 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 at hospitals, health insurance compa-
nies, pharmaceuticals, long-term care facilities, assistant to hospital mangers, physician offices, or health informatics technicians. The
degree offers two tracks to choose from: Healthcare Informatics or Health Care Management. Information on the program is located at [www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems) or contact Ronald Morgan, Program Advisor [remorgan@usouthal.edu](mailto:remorgan@usouthal.edu)

EMS Certificate Program: Our certificate programs continue to grow. 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 first cohort will take their national certification examinations in December. Information on the program is located at [www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems) or contact Charles Erwin, Program Director [cerwin@usouthal.edu](mailto:cerwin@usouthal.edu)

Alabama Gulf EMS System (ADPH EMS Region 6): AGEMSS has been awarded our eighth 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 eight year total of $1,881,575.00. The region must continue to main-
tain the trauma system; establish a stroke and STEMI system, provide trauma system orientation; assist with primary education (Emergency Medical Responder and Emergency Medical Technician); provide continuing education classes; provide protocol educa-
tion, updates, and evaluation; maintain the Medical Director’s Accountability Committee and Plan, maintain the Regional Trauma Advis-
sory Council and maintain the regional quality improvement plan. Information on the program is located at [www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems](http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/ems) or contact David Garmon, Executive Director [dgarmo@usouthal.edu](mailto:dgarmo@usouthal.edu) or [agemss@usouthal.edu](mailto:agemss@usouthal.edu)

David F. Garmon, dgarno@usouthal.edu
agemss@usouthal.edu
Occupational Therapy

Message from the Chair, Dr. Marjorie Scaffa

Much has been happening in the Occupational Therapy Department this year. The most exciting news is related to accreditation. In March, we submitted our self-study document to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and the site team evaluators visited in June. We recently received our official documentation of reaccreditation from ACOTE. I am pleased and proud to announce that the reviewers gave us an outstanding report with no deficiencies noted. ACOTE has approved our continuing accreditation for ten years, the longest amount of time that can be granted. Thank you all for your role in making our success possible.

On a sad note, two faculty members resigned over the summer. Dr. Rebecca Estes has accepted a faculty position at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Estes taught in the OT program for five years and served as Chair for four of those years. Paula Lowrey, our Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the past two years, has also left the University of South Alabama. They will certainly be missed by the faculty, staff and students in the Department of Occupational Therapy and we wish them much success in their future endeavors.

As a result of these faculty departures, we are searching for full-time faculty members. Please get the word out, and if you or someone you know is interested, please contact me at 251-445-9222 or mscaffa@southalabama.edu. In the meantime, we have hired several new part-time faculty members. Sarla Sharma who is teaching some basic science content in the curriculum, and Danielle Peters, a USA OT graduate, who is teaching neuromusculoskeletal assessment techniques are both returning from last year. New part-time faculty for this year include: Dr. Blaise Chromiak, Claire Hanna, Lauren Keating, Arnold Ondis, and Courtney Sasse. We are very pleased to have these talented people join our team.

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa; mscaffa@southalabama.edu

PI THETA EPSILON

The University of South Alabama’s Occupational Therapy honor society, Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), has been diligently reaching out to the OT department and the local community through leadership, scholarly activities, and research. The first day of fall classes, PTE members presented study tips to incoming occupational therapy students. PTE members also attended Camp Odyssey, a bereavement camp for children, where PTE members were paired up as buddies with children having suffered the loss of a loved one. At the camp, PTE students participated in a candle light ceremony, shared stories of loss, and encouraged children to engage in fun camp activities such as swimming and sailing. PTE members also traveled to St. Luke’s Episcopal School where they gave a presentation entitled “What is OT?” to an 11th grade biomedical class. The presentation was followed by interactive stations where St. Luke students participated in hands on activities, including dressing, feeding, sensory integration, and strength testing. PTE members also prepared a poster presentation for the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association fall conference at Orange Beach, AL. The presentation was entitled Book Bag Use Characteristics in Occupational Therapy Students and was the result of several semesters of research by third year occupational therapy students.

By Kaila Adams, OTS, PTE President at USA
Occupational Therapy continued ...

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to Donna Wooster, who was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor this fall.

Dr. Marjorie Scappa and Courtney Sasse presented a poster, a short course and a workshop at the 2012 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Indianapolis. Topics presented included the use of therapeutic modes by occupational therapy students, infusing positive psychology concepts across occupational therapy practice areas and facilitating client resilience. In addition, Dr. Scappa presented a short course on the role of occupational therapy in disaster planning, response and recovery with two faculty members of Towson University.

Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA) Fall Conference
The OT program was well represented at the 2012 ALOTA conference in Orange Beach. All faculty members attended, as well as many current students and alumni. PTE members presented their poster on backpack use, SASOTA had a booth in the vendor area, and the USA OT program received the award for the highest percentage of student members in ALOTA for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all!!

Physical Therapy

Message from the Chair, Dr. Dennis Fell

Well, it starts again... The DPT Class of 2015 recently started their first semester. We admitted 36 students (from over 400 applicants and 300 qualified applicants) with an average cumulative GPA of 3.76, average science GPA of 3.64 and average GRE score of 1123 (on the old scoring system). The high quality of those admitted is also reflected in the increased number of new students who come with scholarships in hand (see the article below).

In the middle of the grueling orientation schedule, the students enjoyed an orientation to the beach :-) at Gulf Shores on the first Tuesday afternoon. Now they are full-steam into Anatomy, PT Skills and Ex Phys.

I really hope you’ll join us for a more specific start to our USA PT Class Reunions especially since our first class (1978) will celebrate 35 years next year!! We will facilitate Class Reunions for the highlight classes achieving major milestones, in conjunction with the Alabama APTA Spring Conference at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, AL, April 12 – 14, 2013 <http://ptalabama.org/events/?eventID=116&date=04/12/2013>. The Hotel/Spa group rate is $159/night. You can register for the conference and get your CEUs, and of course, there is the world-class golf course. This year will highlight graduates from 1978 (35 yr), 1983 (30yr), 1988 (25yr), 1993 (20yr), 1998 (15yr), 2003 (10yr), and 2008 (5 yr) and we'll plan some specific activities for each class that attends. If you are interested in participating or coordinating contacts with your class, please contact Dr. Dennis Fell, 251-445-9330 or email ptdept@southalabama.edu.

In May, Janice Sellers retired as department secretary after 22 years with the University (18 in our department). We are very happy to welcome our new Secretary, Mrs. Angela Smith.

My prayer is that life continues to bring you great fulfillment and joy, including a love and devotion in what you do as a physical therapist. I love seeing the news on Facebook about weddings and babies, and even more if I get a specific email (so I can include it in our alumni updates – see our website)! It gives us, as faculty, a great sense of satisfaction thinking of all the graduates out there who are very positively impacting the lives of others and restoring movement to life!

Hope to see you soon!

Dr. Dennis Fell
dfell@southalabama.edu;
http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pt/
USA PHYSICAL THERAPY ALUMNI “FACEBOOK” GROUP

Dr. Fell’s Facebook group “USA Physical Therapy Alumni” was started in Fall 2008 as an opportunity to enhance social networking (in this Web 2.0 world) and reconnection among USA PT graduates. Now there are over 310 of the 953 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!

LAURA WHITE, PT, DSCPT, GCS

Congratulations to Dr. Laura White who was awarded her

DR. PETE PANUS NAMED THE COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME FOR 2012

Dr. Pete Panus, PT alumnus from the Class of 1994, and currently Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at East Tennessee State Univ was inducted into our College Alumni Hall of Fame at the March 2012 awards banquet. Dr. Panus has been on faculty at ETSE for 17 years, has accumulated a large record of scholarly publications (>37 so far) and national presentations and is frequently called upon to teach Pharmacology units as part of the APTA Advanced Clinical Practice series and at PT programs across the country. He has published “Pharmacology for the Physical Therapist” with McGraw-Hill. Dr. Panus and his wife Dr. Leslie Panus have provided significant support for the PT scholarships including development of the Shirley and Eugene Panus Scholarship in memory of his parents, with matching funds from the University. His ongoing contributions, including a gift at the end of the awards banquet, have resulted in a current corpus of over $80,000 that now supports an annual scholarship to a PT student with a potential career in PT academics and research. Our sincere Thanks to Drs. Pete and Leslie Panus for their ongoing generosity!

USA PT ALUMNI SOCIETY AND FUTURE GATHERINGS

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@southalabama.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) 445-9330 or email <ptdept@southalabama.edu>. We are also starting 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!!
Physical Therapy continued ...

KYOUNG KIM, PT, PHD,
VISING INTERNATIONAL PROFESSOR FOR 2012

The department is very glad to have Dr. Kyong Kim as a Visiting International Professor in Physical Therapy for 2012. Dr. Kim was the department chair at Daegu University, South Korea during Dr. Fell’s sabbatical there, 2010-2011. We are glad to be hosting him, with his wife Jinyoung, and children Minseo (11) and Changin (8), here in our department. The children are doing amazingly well in school and we have been showing them the fun side of American culture. During his sabbatical, he is participating in some of our DPT courses (in English), collaborating in physical therapy research, and completing a Korean textbook in physical therapy while being very successful with research manuscript publications. Dr. Kim gave a lecture to our students and faculty on Sept 7, 2012 on “International Physical Therapy Experiences” to celebrate the WCPT World Physical Therapy Day.

DEATH OF DR. GEORGE TURNBULL,
DEPARTMENT CHAIR 1991-1992

Dr. George Turnbull, who served as Department Chair of PT at USA from 1991 – 1992, passed from this life on March 7, 2012 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Born in Scotland, he came to Mobile from Dal Housie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. In addition to his administrative duties, he taught the neurologic curriculum to our students. Dr. Turnbull returned to Halifax and most recently was Associate Dean of Research and Academics at Dalhousie University. Dr. Fell, along with many other students, remembers well the emphatic verbal commands of PNF as Dr. Turnbull taught them in a distinctly Scottish accent: “POOSH” “POOLE”! Dr. Jim Wall reminisced: “I first met George when I went to work at Dalhousie University and we struck up a great working relationship. We worked together on several research projects and taught continuing education courses together. Apart from his academic success he was also an avid sportsman having represented Great Britain in basketball, but my lasting impression of George was his sense of humor, we had many a good laugh together.” At Dr. Jim Wall’s suggestion, the Wall scholarship has been renamed the Dr. James Wall and Dr. George Turnbull PT Scholarship and several faculty members have added memorial gifts to the scholarship corpus. Alumni who want to make a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship, can write a check to USA and mail it to Dr. Dennis Fell, USA Physical Therapy, 5721 USA Drive N., Mobile, AL 36688.

SCALEBACK ALABAMA

The USA PT Department again spear-headed the 2012 Scale Back Alabama program on main campus for employees and students, a state-wide initiative to develop a path towards safe weight loss, see http://www.scalebackalabama.com/ This 10 week program, with a team approach, is designed to provide information on how to safely lose 10 pounds over a 10 week period through development of healthier eating and increased physical activity. Dr. Jean Irion served as the campus coordinator providing one of the service learning options for our year 1 and 2 students. The students engaged in several activities related to Scale Back AL which included: 1) the weigh-ins and weigh-outs, 2) weekly educational presentations incorporating the Healthy Tips on the Scale Back websites, and 3) recording the presentations with PowerPoint and voice overs to be available for preview on personal computers, iPad etc. for those employees and students that cannot make the weekly education sessions.

In addition, 2nd year students developed 2 research projects for participants in Scale Back AL. Dr. Coral Gubler and Dr. Jean Irion were the faculty mentors for these projects. As part of these research projects, year 1 and 2 students conducted weekly physical activity sessions for the research subjects. These physical activity sessions include the more traditional forms of physical activity such as: strength training, yoga, Tai Chi, core stabilization, aquatic exercise, Spinning and development of a walking program. In addition, the study participants were also exposed to more non-traditional forms of physical activity such as disc golf, exercise options for home and the office, hiking on nature trails and incorporating physical activity into family outings. All of these activities related to Scale Back have allowed the students to incorporate content learned in the classroom and labs into service to the USA community. Drs. Irion and Gubler will teach a course on this topic at CSM 2013 in San Diego and the students will be presenting their research results as a poster presentation at the conference.

YEAR-II DPT CLASS RAISES FUNDS FOR FOOD BANK

The DPT Class of 2013 sponsored a softball tournament with part of the funds going to the Bay Area Food Bank. As a result the class donated 319 pounds of food. The donation was enough to provide 2,000 meals! Great job!

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… We want to include you in the next issue! Also help us get in touch with other alumni who are disconnected.


319 pounds of food. The donation was enough to provide 2,000 meals! Great job!
Faculty Scholarly Productivity

Peer-Reviewed Publications: Over the past year, faculty have published a number of peer-reviewed manuscripts:


Faculty National Presentations:


Faculty Achievements

Congratulations to Dr. Jean Irion as the recipient of the Chapter Leadership Award for the Alabama Chapter of APTA. This award goes to a member of the Chapter Council or committee member who showed exemplary leadership. Jean was chosen largely for her role on the PIAA (Direct Access) legislative committee representing southern Alabama. Dr. Dennis Fell, Dept Chair, and Dr. Glenn Irion were both promoted to Professor this year. Dr. Elisa Kennedy was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and was recertified as Pediatric Clinical Specialist for the 3rd time. Dr. Jim Wall, Professor Emeritus, was presented with the CAPTE Award for
Message from the Chair, Dr. Diane Abercrombie

It has been a very busy and productive year in the Physician Assistant Department. On September 2011, I assumed the role of Interim Chair, and in January 2012, I was appointed PA Department Chairperson. Alan Cohen once stated, "Do not resist events that move you out of your comfort zone, especially when your comfort zone was not all that comfortable." It has been a challenging, yet rewarding year. Concurrently, we also welcomed a new medical director, Dr. Shannon Tyler, Assistant Professor with dual board certification in Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease.

As of July 2012, there are 504 graduates of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Our graduates are employed in a variety of health care settings, roughly 60% in specialty care and 40% in primary care medicine. As a National Health Service Corp Scholar Alumni, primary care in rural and medically underserved areas has always been my platform. Physician Assistants and health care shortages in rural and medically underserved areas are well documented in the United States. Two of the primary issues for ensuring a sufficient number of physician assistant professionals in rural areas are: 1) adequate supply, and 2) appropriate distribution. The issues are multifaceted. The USA PA program is committed to supporting efforts to attract PAs to rural locations, especially medically needy areas.

To help meet this critical need of supply vs. demand, the department was recently awarded nearly $1 million in grant funds by the Department of Health and Human Services to train primary care physician assistants and to aid veterans in their transition from military life to civilian careers as PAs upon their return. Of the 12 PA programs that received portions of the $2.3 million in funding over a five year period, USA received the largest award totaling $995,954 (100 percent federally funded).

The department has a plethora of objectives outlined for the five year grant, namely to identify and expand recruitment strategies and the student selection process to further promote the identification and selection of applicants from regional underrepresented minority groups, rural and/or medically underserved communities and veterans; to identify and expand development of rural and medically underserved clinical rotation sites; identify and implement retention and support modalities appropriate to students from minority populations, rural and/or medically underserved areas, and veterans to remain current with their class work, thus affording every reasonable opportunity to be retained and graduate from the program, to mention only a few. While I recognize providing adequate health care services in our rural service areas is a complex issue, this funding will allow USA to have a greater impact in closing the health care shortage gap.

I welcome applicant and clinical site referrals from those residing and/or practicing in primary care, especially rural and medically underserved areas. If you know of someone who is interested in our program or a potential physician/hospital clinic rotation site, please contact me at 251-445-9334 or dabercrombie@usouthal.edu.

On a final note, the department is in the process of curriculum re-development after recommendations were made by an external PA educator consultant in May 2012. Curriculum changes will occur in multiple phases starting May 2013. The long-term objective is a clinical medicine curriculum design sequenced with the basic science courses to enhance student learning outcomes. Currently the faculty is working hard to create and implement meaningful, consistent, and measurable clinical reasoning and problem solving skills, physical examination theory and skills, medical history-taking skills and team-based learning. Under the tutelage of our Director of Didactic Education, Dr. Vetrosky, students have increased their use of USA's premier simulation lab, with this year’s addition of the simulated patient. To aid in this effort, the PA program has added two of its alumni as part-time instructors, Ms. Robin Risling, PA-C (Class of 2008) and Mr. Cody Black, PA-C (Class of 2010). I am particularly grateful to the dedicated full-time faculty and staff not only for their long history of preparing PA students to positively impact health care, but also for embracing the rationale behind our collective decision to revise the PA curriculum.

Innovations in education such as Interprofessional collaborative education opportunities are also allowing the PA program to advance student knowledge in preparation for patient-centered care. The PA program has partnered with the College of Nursing and is proud to welcome Dr. Tracy Overholt, Adult Health Nursing, to our teaching roster. Our Neighborhood Health Clinic and 15 Place with Drs. Margaret Nadler and Linda Roussel have been invaluable to our interprofessional efforts by providing our students with clinical application of interprofessionalism. We are also extremely grateful to our CAHP colleagues who continue to provide our students with exceptional interprofessional learning opportunities throughout our 15-month didactic training phase. In conjunction with these efforts, Dr. Abercrombie and her interprofessional working group: Dr. Linda Roussel, Dr. Margaret Nadler, Dr. Christopher Freed, Dr. Benjamin Estrada, Dr. Shannon Tyler, Mr. Ron Morgan, Ms. Cheryl Davis, Ms. Laurie Haas, and Ms. Clista Clanton are the recipients of an
intramural grant, May 2012, totaling $5000.00. They are working towards faculty development and readiness for interprofessional education across the health sciences. So, as you can see, we are busy, but welcome the challenges inherent in today’s medical education. We would love to hear from you, check out our webpage at www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pa or like us on Facebook.

Dr. Diane Abercrombie; dabercrombie@usouthal.edu

GRADUATES: CLASS OF 2012

On July 27, 2012 the USA PA program graduated its 15th class consisting of 39 students (97.5%).

There were several honorees at the ceremony:
Student Service Award Roxy Benton, PA
Dean’s Award Patrick Cacchio, PA
Didactic Instructor of the Year Dr. William Davis, Biomedical Sciences, USA
Clinical Instructor of the Year Dr. Wendall Erdman, Inpatient Consultants Mobile Infirmary Hospital, Mobile, AL
Clinical Support of the Year Mobile County Health Department

The faculty and staff of the program continue to work hard to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. The efforts of the faculty and students have thus far culminated in a 97% first-time passing rate on the PANCE for the class graduating in July 2012.

ADMISSIONS

The 2012-2013 Admissions process is well underway, and we have surpassed last year’s number of applications! Our application process closes on November 1, 2012, and we currently have over 640 applications in various stages of processing. In January 2013, we will interview and accept another excellent class of approximately 40 students. For the 2012-2013 application year, we have five new resourceful and multitalented members sitting on our committee (e.g., diversity coordinator, counseling, military PA, primary care physician, urgent care PA). We appreciate Ms. Karen LaSarge, Admissions Coordinator, and the assistance of so many graduates, USA physicians, and community partners in making our admissions process such a success!

Since the inception of the Physician Assistant Studies program at USA in 1996 it has been their goal for PA students to obtain not only a quality education but to graduate with an enriched and well-rounded education. They meet this challenge by encouraging students to be connected to the communities in which they work and live.

On August 16, 2012 the class of 2014 continued this tradition by partnering with John Will Elementary School in Mobile for Meet the Teacher Day. As parents arrived to meet the teachers, PA students were on hand to distribute more than 180 backpacks and a plethora of school supplies donated by local businesses, (Rebekah Brown State Farm, Thompson Engineering, Wal-Mart and Target) USA staff and faculty members and PA students alike.

PA Studies Department Director of Clinical Education Cheryl Davis said, “Backpack Giveaway day is important because John Will Elementary School is in our neighbor and it’s important for the USA PA Program to become increasingly ingrained in our community and in tune with their needs in social avenues as well. As developing healthcare providers, our PA students are learning that providing medical care to patients is only one role in their responsibility to care for their community.”

In addition to filling little backpacks with supplies, the students also filled little stomachs on Meet the Teacher Day as well. Local restaurants such as Domino’s, Papa John’s, Pizza Hut, Hungry Howie’s, Firehouse Subs, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Subway all donated food that helped to make the day a smashing success.
Admissions continued
The backpack event serves as only one example of numerous community service projects that our students are engaged in. The Class of 2013 held the Annual PA Program Charity Event in June 2012. Students raised over $3000.00 benefitting the Ronald McDonald House through its charity tennis tournament!

Recruitment
PA Department Meets the Kappa League
In an effort to increase the dwindling numbers of male applicants to health care programs, Department Chair Diane Abercrombie, Admissions Coordinator, Karen LaSarge and Clinical Coordinator Assistant, Cheryl Nicholls paid a visit to the Kappa League house in downtown Mobile on Saturday, July 14th to enlighten the members of this community service organization about the field of physician assistants.

Kappa League was founded in 1969, by the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and has as its mission to provide educational, occupational and social guidance to males in grades 6-8.

Ms. Nicholls opened the program asking for a show of hands from the students as to how many were familiar with the term “physician assistant.” Only two students from the group of 25 responded affirmatively. This provided an excellent segue way for Ms. LaSarge to begin her presentation.

Ms. LaSarge presented a 15 minute presentation providing an overview of the PA program and highlighting important classes to be taken in preparation for entry into the field. Dr. Abercrombie, dressed in her white coat and donned with a stethoscope around her neck, demonstrated a “day in the life of a PA.” This was followed by a brief Q&A session.

From the Classroom to the Clinic
The Class of 2013
The Class of 2013 recently celebrated the coveted “White Coat Ceremony” (WCC) on Saturday, August 24th with faculty, family and friends. Ms. Julie Edmond, PA-C, (Class of 1999) served as the guest speaker. The WCC marks the professional students’ transition from the study of preclinical to clinical health sciences. Students were formally “robed” in the traditional white coat with their USA PA program patch by Ms. Cheryl Davis, Director of Clinical Education.

Faculty News
Dr. Daniel T. Vetrosky
Congratulations to Dr. Daniel T. Vetrosky who was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, effective August 15, 2012. Dr. Vetrosky has been with the department since 1996 and serves as the new Director of Didactic Education. Other faculty members have participated in various research and scholarly activities. Kudos to all!

Mrs. Victoria C. Howard, PA-C, MHS
My name is Victoria C. Howard. Growing up in a small rural town in Isney/Silas, AL, I have always been interested in rural medicine; however, after graduating from my small high school and moving to the “big” city of Mobile, AL, I didn’t think that opportunity would ever come. Thankfully, I was wrong.

After graduation from the USA PA program, I assumed that I would work in Mobile. I soon found out that Mobile was saturated with subspecialty PA opportunities, but not very many primary care opportunities. I was so disappointed. My colleague and friend, Jamaal Upshaw, PA-C introduced me to Dr. Huey Kidd, D.O., Physicians Care of Thomasville in Thomasville, AL. My opportunity to work in rural medicine had come true after all!

I am currently working as a primary care PA in rural medicine in Thomasville, AL at Physicians Care of Thomasville (PCOT). Teamwork with Dr. Kidd is extremely rewarding. We work together
as a collegial team with other professionals. Each day I am contributing to my training and experience and helping to provide valuable health related services that patients might otherwise not be able to afford or have access to. You are challenged to think on your feet, be creative, and adapt to whatever resources you have available. Each day brings its own challenges, excitement and in-depth learning experiences. I am privileged to work with patients from all walks of life, as well as, all ages: newborn to ninety-two. Hand in hand with Dr. Kidd, the scope of practice is broad with continual learning experiences. Most rewarding however, is the ability to make a difference in the lives of the patient’s we care for. They know that we are there for them; patient-centered care, that’s what it’s all about.

Since the closing of the city’s hospital here in Thomasville over one year ago, PCOT has really stepped up to provide care to the community by opening our Thomasville office 7 days a week. My supervising physician, Dr. Kidd, often tells me that having me as a PA at our Thomasville office has allowed us to care for a greater volume of patients, and provide many ancillary services, such as labs, x-rays, ultrasounds, and stress tests, to our community. I also have the opportunity to build closer relationships with the patients. Working in rural medicine, you get to know the patients better, and can often care for them better because you learn things they might find difficult telling someone else. There’s also the solitude of a rural setting, short commute times, and a great atmosphere to raise a family. Your kids can explore the outdoors without constant surveillance.

I often thank my friend and colleague, Jamaal, for referring me to Dr. Kidd in rural medicine, affording me the opportunity of fulfilling my dream to have a rewarding career in rural medicine. Every day I embrace the joys and challenges of working in rural medicine head on, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. I have the best job in the world!

Radiologic Sciences

Message from the Chair, Dr. Charles Newell

With the 2012-2013 academic year well underway, the Department of Radiologic Sciences program begins its 36th year of operation! Thirty-seven junior students were admitted to the Certificate program, and will join twenty-eight second-year students who are quickly acclimating to the demands of the second year. Enrollment in our B.S. program remains stable with a current enrollment of: MRI (15), Ultrasound (7), Radiation Therapy (14), CT (12), Cardio-Vascular (3), Mammography (3) and Radiology Administration (16). The combined Departmental enrollment for the fall semester is 135.

This year marks the end of the two-year certificate program, and the beginning of the new baccalaureate program. This change occurred as a result of a 2007 mandate by the ARRT which effectively ended all certificate programs. Certificate programs are being replaced by associate degree or baccalaureate degree programs.

The new B.S. program requires all students to complete 63-64 semester hours of non-radiography freshman and sophomore level course work prior to entering the program. Under the new curriculum all students will complete one year of general radiography course work. Prior to the start of their senior year, students will select one area of concentration (e.g., radiation therapy, ultrasound MRI, CT, etc.). Students selecting MRI, CT, vascular, radiology administration or mammography will also enroll in general radiography clinical education courses, that will qualify them for ARRT certification in general radiography and in an advanced imaging modality. Radiation therapy and ultrasound students will enroll in courses specific to their area of concentration and although they will not be eligible for ARRT certification in general radiography, they will be eligible for certification in ultrasound (ARDMS) and radiation therapy (ARRT).

The Class of 2012 received a 96.4% first-time pass rate, and we are certainly proud of these graduates. The first-time pass rate for Radiation Therapy students was 100%.

Graduation for the Class of 2012 was held at the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center on July 26, 2012. Twenty-seven students graduated, and the Center was filled to capacity. Mr. Michael Burroughs, Class of 1992 delivered the graduation address. During graduation ceremonies, those graduates recognized for academic and clinical achievement were Charles Davis, Graduate Student Award, Dana Bekurs, Dean’s Award, and Charles Davis received the Mallinckrodt Award. Ms. Roxanne McKenzie, R.T. (R) received the Clinical Adjunct Instructor of the Year Award. Ms. McKenzie serves the Department, as so many others do, as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor. Ms. McKenzie is employed at Thomas Hospital. Once again, our appreciation goes to the 2012 Class officers who made significant contributions via support for their fellow class members and the Department. The 2012 class officers were: Dana Bekurs, President, Lynda Nie, Vice-President, Ashley Jordan, Treasurer-Secretary, and Historian Kayla Kichler. The Class donated $500 to the Dr. Charles and Penny Newell Endowed Scholarship in Radiologic Sciences, which was greatly appreciated by Dr. Newell and Penny.
The Department's scholarship fund received $2,000 in donations during the USA Annual Fund Drive in 2011-2012. As I have indicated in previous editions of the Crucible, our Departmental scholarship fund enables us to award $3,700 annually to three deserving students, which is always greatly appreciated. However, with tuition at $259.00 per semester hour, one can see that $3,700 does not go very far. So, I once again request that alumni consider making a small donation to our scholarship fund. Remember, as the scholarship fund grows, so will the annual amount awarded to a student. Any assistance you may lend will be sincerely appreciated.

Charles Newell; cnewell@southalabama.edu

THE GRADUATE CORNER

Our featured graduate for this edition of the Crucible is Michael Burroughs, Class of 1992. As mentioned previously, Michael delivered the graduation address to the Class of 2012 in July of this year, and he did a great job. I was particularly pleased to see Michaels' wife and three sons seated near the first row of the auditorium as he gave the commencement address. I know they were as proud of him as we were.

I must say that Michael's entry to the educational segment of our profession began with more than a degree of uncertainty. You see, Michael did not apply for admission to the radiography program as other students are required to do. Oh no, he simply showed up for class. As memory serves, we just happened to have an unfilled vacancy and for the only time in the history of this program, there were no alternates on our student admissions list.

After some discussion short of a formal interview, it was determined that Michael’s academic credentials were in order, and he was eventually admitted on a probationary status. As Michael said, "my admission was a bit of dumb luck, but great luck!"

Despite his fortuitous beginning, Michael graduated and like other young graduates starting out in our field, he worked in many different capacities. Early on, Michael decided that his future would best be realized through commercial sales. His first venture into commercial sales was with Berlex selling contrast media. It seems that Michael's real interest was in radiographic equipment sales and so he sought employment with Picker X-ray Corp, which was later purchased by Philips. Another employment opportunity came along four years later and Michael found himself employed by Siemens where he sold cardiac cath lab and CT units. Two years later Kenny Breal, former GE Regional Sales Manager (Class of 1988), called and Michael went to work for GE Healthcare. Apparently Michael’s interest in GE was the result of competing against GE in his capacity as a Cardiology Account Manager with Siemens where he acquired a great deal of respect for GE’s business practices. Michael's employment with GE was something of a homecoming in that he joined several of his friends now employed with GE who graduated from USA including Derek Bonner (Class of 1992), Matthew Tures (Class of 1992), Bradley Dombroski (Class of 1993) and Joey Jefferson (Class of 1994). I have often referred to this group of graduates as the “GE connection," but their association goes much deeper as it is rooted in a mutual respect for one another. For example, Michael was employed in the vascular department at Providence Hospital during Joey Jefferson's senior rotations in our vascular program, and served as Joey’s clinical preceptor. Joey considers Michael to be a true mentor as he helped Joey understand the clinical complexities of performing vascular procedures using Schonanders, Pucks and other equipment common to that era. This association led to Joey's eventual employment in vascular radiology at the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center and later employment with GE as an Applications Specialist in Cardiac Catherization. Their mutual respect for one another continues today.

Michael is approaching his seventh anniversary with GE Healthcare where he has climbed the leadership ladder in a relatively short period of time. He began his career as a RAM (Radiology Account Manager) selling all of GE’s equipment modalities. From the very beginning he was at the top of the sales board. According to Joey Jefferson, Michael posted 21 sales in a three-year period which was an amazing accomplishment and one that Joey had never witnessed in his twelve years with GE. Joey believes that Michael “is the best of the best.” Yes, praise from a colleague is truly something to value. Michael’s success as a RAM led to his promotion as MRI Product Sales Specialist, which means he was a Region MRI Modality Leader. Continued success in this position prompted GE to award his efforts a year or so ago with another promotion to MR Area Sales Leader. As a Sales Leader, four fellow MR Sales Specialists report to Michael who, in turn, reports to his South East Zone MR Leader. These accomplishments are surprising because according to Joey Jefferson, advancements at the rate experienced by Michael are typically seen in those individuals who have been trained in GE’s leadership training programs and not individuals coming from purely a clinical background. Be that as it may, Michael’s success is such that Joey Jefferson believes that it is possible “he may be working for Michael one day.”

So what is the key to Michael’s success? Perhaps the answer lies in his sense of humor. Michael has reminded me of a “few” occasions in which he tried to lighten things up during class or if you will, act as the class clown.
Graduate continued

I suppose he was at times, but not to the point of distraction. In the opinion of Joey Jefferson, Michael is still the class clown both internally with GE and externally with customers as he has found a unique approach that has led him to being successful in his career in commercial sales. I would add that his gift of gab was obvious from our very first meeting, which may explain how he was able to enter our radiography program in the manner he did. However, I have had several opportunities to observe Michael as a guest speaker at professional meetings and I can say that while he still employs his sense of humor, he knows his material and is serious about his profession.

As you can surmise, Michael is a busy man. His work causes him to be away from home, perhaps far too often. Yet, he considers home life to be wonderful. In Michael’s words, “he is married to a wonderful young lady (Lisa) and mother who is a part time Speech Pathologist (USA graduate Class of 1999), as well as functioning as a full time mom.” They are blessed with three sons who participate in sports, which demand Lisa’s and Michael’s attendance at any number of events. Does he have time for hobbies? Just one, and that is his family.

I recently asked Michael to provide me with some insight regarding what his typical day is like. His examples began with providing presentations to physicians and MRI technologists, developing sales strategies, managing installations and “prospecting for new business.” The use of the word “prospecting” was not a word I would typically associate with sales and I questioned whether the folks at GE Health Care use the term either. Who knows? Regardless of the descriptor used (prospector or salesman), Michael is a true success story. He was born in Smiths Station, AL (population 21,756), attended Smiths Station elementary, middle and high school, and graduated from USA’s radiography program even though he never officially applied for admission. Quite a story when you think about it.

I would be remiss if I failed to offer my sincere thanks to Joey Jefferson who provided me with greater insight to Michael’s path to success which to his credit, Michael would never fully provide on behalf of himself.

Best wishes for continued success to Michael and his family.

Other News

Alpha Eta is a national allied health organization, which recognizes the academic accomplishments of students completing allied health programs. This year nine students graduating from our B.S. program were inducted into Alpha Eta. Congratulations go to Richard Vaillancourt, Peter Wilkin, Matthew Kerr, Chelsea Grissett, Ibrahim Khormi, Gregory Hankins, Marzieh Atigh, Gabrielle Rice and Tyler Havard who are this year’s new members in Alpha Eta. They were officially inducted during the Pat Capps College of Allied Health Profession’s annual Faculty Recognition Ceremony on March 27, 2012.

In April 2012, the Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists held its second joint annual conference at Lakepoint State Park Resort in Eufaula, Alabama. As usual, student participation was well represented through competing in the Student Bowl, poster displays, and scientific essays. Cathy Cooper and Trish Brewer remain active in the ALSRT as State officers and ASRT delegates.

Faculty Activities

Ms. Cathy Cooper:
“One Size Does Not Fit All: Pediatric Radiography”, presented to radiographers at the joint meeting of the Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Georgia Society of Radiologic Technologists, Eufaula, AL, April 2012.
“Making the Transition from Student to R.T. to Professional”, presented to radiographers and student radiographers at the Atlanta Society of Radiologic Technologists 25th Student & Radiographer’s Seminar & Educator’s Conference, Atlanta, GA, February 2012.
“Five Reminders Every Radiographer Needs”, presented to radiographers at the Atlanta Society of Radiologic Technologists 25th Student & Radiographer’s Seminar & Educator’s Conference, Atlanta, GA, February 2012.
“Medical Ethics and Patient Care”. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.
ASRT Senior Delegate representing ALSRT for the Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists
- Member of the Student Intern Selection Committee
- Mentor for two students attending the Educational Symposium and House of Delegates meeting in Albuquerque, NM

Ms. Patricia Brewer:
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, Accreditation Site Visitor.
Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists, Secretary/Treasurer.
American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Delegate to the 2011 Governance & House of Delegates Meeting, representing the Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists.
Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences, Membership Committee.
Radiologic Sciences continued...

Faculty Activities continued

Ms. Patricia Brewer continued


Brewer, P.A. and Cooper, C.M. “Making the Transition from Student to R.T. to Professional.” The Atlanta Society’s Student & Radiographer’s Seminar and Educator’s Conference, Atlanta, GA, February 27, 2012.


Mr. Chucri Jalkh:


Diagnostic Contrast Media Examinations. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Radiation Protection and Radiation Biology. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Dr. Charles Newell:


Imaging Receptors. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

CR, DR and Image Processing, and Scatter Radiation Control. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Radiologic Physics. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Radiographic Exposure Factors. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Radiographic Anatomy and Positioning of the Skull. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

Methods for Solving Exposure Factor Problems. Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.


Ms. Cherie Pohlmann:

Webmaster for Alabama Society of Radiologic Technologists

September 2011 – USA Nurse Practitioner Orientation“Ultrasound Basics for Nurse Practitioners”

October 15, 2011 – RADSYM Ultrasound Break-Out Conference – 2 Lectures

“FAST Scan Ultrasound Exam”

“OB/GYN Ultrasound Standards”

Mr. Dale Smith:

Mammography PACS Presentation”, Mammography Conference 2011, September 24, 2011.


“Transitioning from Film-Screen Mammography to Digital Mammography to PACS”, Alabama Society 65th Annual Meeting, April 28, 2012

Radiographic Anatomy and Positioning of the Upper and Lower Extremity Extremities. Department Presented to the 34th Annual Department of Radiologic Sciences Seminar, April 2012.

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 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 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 development@usouthal.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. A current list of departmental scholarships that will welcome your contributions is as follows:
Radiologic Sciences continued ...

Faculty Activities continued
The Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship
Mary Lou Littleton Endowed Scholarship
Radiation Therapy
Charles and Penny Newell Endowed Scholarship

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 North Dr., HAHN 3015, Mobile, AL 36688-0002. cnewell@southalabama.edu. Again, let us hear from you!

Best wishes to all.

Dr. Charles Newell, Chair
Department of Radiologic Sciences

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Message from the Chair, Dr. Robert Moore

We continue to grow. This year we opened two new research labs in our facilities. Dr. David Evans has created a Virtual Reality Lab to study the effect that social contact has on communication, speech production, and the nervous system. The lab features a head-mounted display to present auditory and visual stimuli, a Microsoft Kinect to monitor body movement, and Biopac hardware and software to process physiological data. Dr. Evans is currently working on a study to examine the similarity of speech behavior and autonomic nervous system response to virtual and non-virtual speaking tasks among adults who stutter. Dr. Evans is also working on collaborative projects with the Department of Engineering and the Department of Physical Therapy. Dr. Tara Davis has developed a Neuroauditory Physiology Lab. Her lab uses the Neuroscan system which is a hardware and software package used to measure brain wave activity. The brain waves can be used to detect language processing and cognitive differences among various populations, including those with auditory processing disorder, language disorders, ADHD, aging, etc. Currently, Dr. Davis is using the Neuroscan system to compare brain wave activity in young versus middle-aged listeners in a competing speech task. She hopes to use this line of research to identify underlying neural markers associated with speech understanding difficulties in various populations.

In May 2012 we graduated 19 students with MSSLP degrees and 4 students with Au.D. degrees. All Au.D. and MSSLP graduates have passed the Praxis exam. All graduates in both majors report being employed. Dr. Ashley Gaal Flagge and Dr. Holly Morlas graduated with dual Au.D. and Ph.D. degrees. They are the fourth and fifth graduates to obtain both degrees at USA. Thirteen undergraduate students also graduated with degrees in Speech and Hearing Science in May. Aimee Brinkman graduated cum laude, Katelyn Ellisor graduated magna cum laude, and Emily Hall graduated summa cum laude.

In August 2012 the department welcomed 22 new students to the MSSLP program and 10 new students to the Au.D. program. This brings our totals to 44 SLP graduate students, 34 AUD graduate students, and 5 Ph.D. students.

On September 1, 2012, Mary Manning retired as the Billing Clerk in the USA Speech and Hearing Center after 24 years of service to the department and university. Mary will be missed by all of us.

Robert Moore; rmoore@southalabama.edu

RECENT FACULTY AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS


recent faculty and student publications continued


recent faculty and student presentations


student recognition

During graduation ceremonies in May several student awards were presented.

Brent Wiles – Outstanding MSSLP student
Brittany Pierson – Outstanding AuD student
Katie Ellisor – Outstanding undergraduate student
Ashley Flagge – Outstanding Ph.D. student

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:

Michelle Johnson
Monika Rotondo

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. This year’s honorees are:

Jessica Byrd – MSSLP
Chelsea Cagle – AuD
Megan Smith – Undergraduate

faculty recognition

Dr. Tonia Beverly continues to serve as a Board Member of ABESPA.
Dr. Robert Moore is serving on the Board of SIG Coordinators for ASHA.
Dr. Julie Estis and Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey are representing the department and college as members of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Estis is serving on the Executive Committee of the Senate. Dr. Hickey is the caucus leader for the College of Allied Health Professions.
Dr. Ishara Ramkisson received a research grant from the USA University Committee on Undergraduate Research (UCUR).
Dr. Ishara Ramkisson received a USA Faculty Development grant.
Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey was renewed for her NIH-LRP grant.
Dr. Elizabeth Adams won the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions Outstanding Teacher Award.
Dr. Susan Gordon-Hickey won the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions Outstanding Researcher Award.
Dr. Ishara Ramkisson serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Mercy Medical.
Dr. Brenda Beverly is a member of the Learning Tree of Mobile Advisory Board and a member of the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.