It seems each year passes more quickly than the one before and that it was only a few months ago that I was writing to you about graduation last year. We are, however, very excited about the progress in the College over the past year. The quality of our graduates continues to be outstanding as evidenced by their performance on national certifying/licensing examinations as I reported in the last edition of the Crucible. One of our major goals for the College is obviously the recruitment of outstanding students and based on both the quality and quantity of the applicant pool for next year, the outlook is very bright for the future. The number of applicants for next year is at an all time high for most of our clinical programs, and the quality of our students is evidenced by the extraordinary number of Allied Health students in the Honors program, selected for scholarship and Honor Societies, and who are tapped for student leadership roles at USA.

The College recently held its annual awards banquet and honored its second Hall of Fame recipient, Sidney Scarborough, a 1994 graduate of the Physical Therapy department. College faculty were recognized for their achievements in teaching, research and service with Dr. John Jefferson (Physical Therapy), Dr. Flint Boettcher (Audiology), and Dr. Dennis Fell (Physical Therapy) respectively receiving awards. As Associate Dean Dr. Julio Turrens pointed out in the presentation, over half of the faculty in the College were nominated for the teaching award which highlights the overall quality of our faculty.

In addition to the awards, we were pleased that Dr. Pat Covey, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the founding Dean of the College could join us for a College celebration of her many years of dedicated service and contributions to the College and the University. During the banquet, we also featured a “preview unveiling” of her portrait that will be displayed in the College Dean’s Office until the completion of the new College of Allied Health and Nursing building.

The faculty join me in wishing you a joyous and healthful summer and, as always, I urge you to keep in touch, and please give us the opportunity to meet with you should your sojourns bring you to the campus.

Richard E. Talbott, Dean

**College News**

**Top Prof” Honors**

On March 3, 2006, the Golden Key Chapter of the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society honored faculty members for their exceptional contributions to the University and for student service and support. Three principles of the Mortar Board Society are "Scholarship, Leadership, and Service." Each Mortar Board member selected a faculty member who has provided support and motivation in and out of the classroom, and has had a significant impact on student life. This year, one third of the awards went to faculty members in the College of Allied Health, including:

- Dr. Cindy Stanfield, Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Zarrintaj Alibadi, Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Holly Hall, Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Ms. Tracy O’Connor, Occupational Therapy
- Dr. Barry Dale, Physical Therapy
- Dr. Julio Turrens, Biomedical Sciences
- Dr. Charles Gray, Physical Therapy
- Dr. Marjorie Scaffa, Occupational Therapy
- Dr. Stephen Kayes, Cell Biology & Neuroscience (BMD Instructor during fall semester)

**New Building**

The University of South Alabama will erect a new building on campus to house the Colleges of Allied Health Professions and Nursing. The building will be located on the corner of University Boulevard and USA North Drive. This building will finally bring together the administration and all departments in the college, which currently are housed miles apart between the University Commons and Springhill Campus. Construction is expected to start at the end of the year.
College News (continued)

National Honor Society Omicron Delta Kappa Inductees

Omicron Delta Kappa is a national leadership honor society that recognizes and encourages scholarship, leadership, and exemplary character. Nine of the thirty students inducted this year were from the College of Allied Health Professions. The ceremony was held in the ballroom of the student center on February 5th. The students inducted included:

- Kathryn M. Brady, Occupational Therapy
- David J. Greer, Physical Therapy
- Beau D. Hagler, Biomedical Sciences
- Cathy V. Ho, Biomedical Sciences
- William B. Hundley, Biomedical Sciences
- Rama D. Kastury, Biomedical Sciences
- Leia R. Lutter, Speech and Hearing Sciences
- Samit A. Patrawala, Biomedical Sciences
- Meghan L. Womble, Occupational Therapy & Psychology

The society also recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the University of South Alabama. The awards this year went to Abraham and Mayer Mitchell and to Dr. Julio F. Turrens, Associate Dean of the College of Allied Health Professions.

College of Allied Health Professions, Division of Health Consultation

Recently, the College established the Division of Health Consultation (DHC). The purpose of the DHC is to:

1. offer high quality consultation services designed to improve the health of individuals, families, and the community
2. enhance learning opportunities for students to apply knowledge in real-world environments
3. facilitate and support the research and scholarship efforts of faculty.

Consultation services can be provided to: businesses/worksites, individuals/families, community organizations, federal and state and local government agencies, professional groups and associations, schools, health care providers and facilities, and faith-based organizations. This list describes a variety of services offered but is not all-inclusive. We welcome inquiries regarding other consultation needs.

If you are interested in receiving consultation services, please do not hesitate to contact the Dean's office at 251-380-2785. Fees for consultation services are negotiated ahead of time. A detailed, written scope of work and costs will be provided and agreed upon by the consultant(s) and the recipient(s) of services. The participation of students as service providers, under the supervision of faculty, enables students to gain real-world experience and decreases the cost of services to the consultee. The DHC welcomes invitations to bid on contracts.

• Training parents to facilitate language development
• Vocal hygiene (using your voice well to prevent voice disorders- ideal for lecturers, teachers, singers, pastors, public speakers)
• Hearing conservation, environmental assessment
• School-based consultation on swallowing/feeding
• Asthma management
• Smoking cessation
• Resources for the care of persons with cystic fibrosis, asthma, COPD rehab
• Pulmonary Function Testing and industrial screening
• Exercise testing and conditioning programs
• Motion analysis
• Exercise guidelines for Arthritis/Osteoporosis, Low Back Pain, General Fitness
• Prevention of sports injuries
• Prenatal and postpartum exercise and fitness
• Occupational Health / Ergonomics for the workplace, prevention of work injuries and back pain
• Low vision problems (children & adults)
• Falls prevention in the elderly
• Community and home accessibility for elderly and persons with disabilities
• Child development evaluation and recommendations
• Health promotion/prevention program design & evaluation
• Dysphagia (swallowing) management
• Dementia management
• Strategies for “Aging in Place”
• Sensory integration evaluation

Department of Biomedical Sciences

Greetings from the Biomedical Sciences Department!

With the aftermath of Katrina it has been an especially challenging year for all but the state of the program is strong. The 2006 Graduation will include 25 BMD graduates. Also searches for new faculty are progressing well with at least one new faculty member expected to be on board Fall 2006. On behalf of all in the department, best wishes for the Summer.

During March 9 – 12, several Biomedical Sciences students attended the National AED Conference in St. Louis, MO. A total of 48 students attended the conference, accompanied by Drs. Cindy Stanfield, Biomedical Sciences, and T.G. Jackson in Chemistry. The majority of these students were Biomedical Science majors.

Students attended sessions on MCAT and interview preparations, how to prepare a personal statement, and how to finance medical school. Students also attended hands-on workshops on suturing, casting, acupuncture, public health, optometry, and more.

The convention ended with the banquet and awards. The University of South Alabama AED Chapter swept the awards winning Chapter of the Year as well as being recognized for having the most attendees at the convention. T.G. Jackson was re-elected National President of AED.
Message from Dr. George Harwell, Chair, Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Dr. Holly Hall retired in January after 29 years of service in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. She and her husband Bill recently went on a Caribbean cruise for some much deserved R & R. Dr. George Harwell replaced Dr. Hall as Chair of the Department. Dr. Harwell has held CLS teaching and administrative positions at the University of Southern Mississippi, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, University of Texas at El Paso, and University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Harwell has over 30 years of experience in clinical laboratory science education.

CLS Student News

Donna Heuermann, CLS senior, is the recipient of a Dade Behring-Emil von Behring Scholarship. Donna is one of four students chosen nationwide from over 300 applicants. This competitive scholarship is awarded by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) based on academic achievement, leadership qualities, and an original essay. Congratulations Donna!

Recent Publications


[# contributed equally to the manuscript]
dependence on others for care. These measures, when combined, can often help people experience arthritis. These measures, when combined, can often help people experience arthritis. These measures, when combined, can often help people experience arthritis. Dr. Joseph Michalski and Kathy Lemcool, adaptive devices such as pencil grips and jar openers to attendees. The students celebrated Occupational Therapy Month by giving away well to demonstrate home safety, adaptive devices available, and provide persons affected by arthritis. The students had a booth at the Wellness Fair as and wellness. Following the walk, their clients to promote health and wellness. Following the walk, a Wellness Fair was held to promote public awareness of services available to persons affected by arthritis. The students had a booth at the Wellness Fair as well to demonstrate home safety, adaptive devices available, and provide public information on the occupational therapy's role in helping people with arthritis to achieve full participation in all their daily activities. Additionally, the students celebrated Occupational Therapy Month by giving away adaptive devices such as pencil grips and jar openers to attendees. The Gulf Coast WB television station aired a segment on March 11 and March 25 of the “Speak Out” program to promote arthritis awareness and the walk. U.S.A. rheumatologist Dr. Joseph Michalski and Kathy Lemcool, MA, OT/RL, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy participated in a panel discussion during the show. The focus of the program was to increase public participation in the walk/wellness fair and to discuss the importance of early diagnosis, new medications, and rehabilitation therapy services for arthritis. These measures, when combined, can often help people experience less pain and fewer deformities often associated with arthritis and reduce their dependence on others for care.

Message from the Chair, Dr. Marjorie Scaffa

Faculty in the Department of Occupational Therapy have been very involved in a variety of areas. Some highlights of faculty accomplishments are listed below. In addition, there are more in-depth articles by Donna Wooster and Kathy Lemcool about student involvement in activities of the Arthritis Foundation.

American Occupational Therapy Association Conference

Several faculty are presenting at this year’s annual conference to be held in late April in Charlotte, North Carolina. A number of students also plan to attend, since the conference is within reasonable driving distance from Mobile. Faculty presentations include a poster session by Donna Wooster and Tracy O’Connor entitled Web Site Resource for Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Supervisors, and a short course by Dr. Marjorie Scaffa on Disaster Mental Health Interventions and Traumatic Stress.

Arthritis Walk and Wellness Fair: Kathy G. Lemcool

In Alabama, over 1.1 million men and women suffer with one of the many forms of arthritis. Arthritis is the number one cause of disability in the nation. On April 1, 2006, the third annual Mobile Bay Area Arthritis Walk was held at Hank Aaron Stadium. The South Alabama Student Occupational Therapy Association members teamed up to participate in the arthritis fundraiser.awareness campaign. The student therapists walked alongside persons affected by arthritis to demonstrate the importance of health care professionals partnering with their clients to promote health and wellness. Following the walk, a Wellness Fair was held to promote public awareness of services available to persons affected by arthritis. The students had a booth at the Wellness Fair as well to demonstrate home safety, adaptive devices available, and provide public information on the occupational therapy's role in helping people with arthritis to achieve full participation in all their daily activities. Additionally, the students celebrated Occupational Therapy Month by giving away adaptive devices such as pencil grips and jar openers to attendees.

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Texas Woman’s University Celebration of Scholarship

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa was invited to present the keynote address for the Celebration of Scholarship sponsored by the TWU chapter of the national occupational scholarship honorary Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE). She will be speaking about Nurturing the Scholar Within to OT students, faculty, and practitioners. The presentation will discuss the variety of types of scholarship in the profession, and provide helpful suggestions for those desiring to initiate or enhance their scholarly pursuits.

Mayor’s Task Force

Dr. Marjorie Scaffa was invited to participate in Mayor Sam Jones’s Transition Task Force. She served as a faculty advisor on the Prevention/Health Promotion subcommittee of the Health Care Committee. The subcommittee was charged to complete a SWOT analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to prevention and health promotion needs of the citizens of the City of Mobile. Based on epidemiological data, the subcommittee decided to focus on diabetes and hypertension, developing recommendations related to early detection, promotion of healthy diets, and physical activity. Public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles, screening for diabetes and hypertension, and resources for dietary changes and physical activity were emphasized. The Mayor’s Transition Task Force Final Report was published on January 31, 2006, and was titled “Too Busy to Be Divided.”

Focus First Update: Donna Wooster, Advisor

The Department of Occupational Therapy is pleased to announce the successful first semester of Focus First. The mission of Focus First is to provide cost- effective vision screening for pre-school aged children and follow up vision assessment as needed. This program addresses the need to identify and remediate the visual problems of underprivileged children, who live in urban and rural poverty, and who without this program may experience difficulty in learning and reading.

Adults know when they experience a change in their vision; however, children who are born with vision problems do not always know that they are not seeing what others are capable of seeing. Also, many children are not able to communicate this vision problem to adults.

The Fall of 2005 was the official kick off for this new vision screening program aimed at preschoolers. Ms. Wooster arranged for USA to become a site to deliver the vision screenings. Currently five student volunteers serve as leaders- Kim Courchesne, Kellyn Moore, Sarah Norris, Brittany Williams and Meghan Womble. One of these students is present at each screening session. All of the occupational therapy students received training and have voluntarily traveled to communities such as Citronelle, McIntosh, Mount Vernon, Atmore, Prichard, Irvington, and Mobile to conduct vision screenings using state-of-the-art photoscreening technology.

In one semester, 14 day care centers and head start programs were visited. Seven hundred sixty-six children received vision screenings. The screening process identified 52 children who will need further vision evaluation from Sight Savers. We will continue to provide screening each semester in 2006. We hope to visit more programs and eventually expand into Baldwin County as well. We are very proud of all of our student volunteers who have dedicated their time and efforts to be trained and to continue to visit sites and conduct screenings. We welcome other student groups to volunteer to assist us in the future. If you are interested, contact Ms. Wooster at 434-3923.
Message from the Chair, Mr. Rich Nenstiel

The 2006 Admissions process was recently completed and we have accepted another excellent class of 36 individuals from an applicant pool of nearly 300. We appreciate the assistance of so many graduates in making our interview process such a success! 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 culminated in a 100% first-time passing rate on the PANCE for class graduating in July 2005. As has been our tradition since the first issue of The Crucible, we have asked one of our graduates to write an article about her experiences since graduation. Alyson Ames, PA-C, graduated in 2001 and promptly headed northeast to Boston to take a position at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Here is her story:

USA to BWH

Bright lights, big city, and the medical Mecca of Boston were all factors that influenced me to pick up and leave all that was familiar to me. Shortly after I graduated from the USA Physician Assistant program, I packed up my belongings, crossed the Mobile Bay and headed northbound to establish my newfound career. I accepted my very first job as a physician assistant at the Harvard affiliated Brigham & Women’s Hospital, a large tertiary care center and a world leader in advanced patient care, medical education, and research.

I was starting my career with the cardiac arrhythmia service, a sub-specialty of cardiology specifically studying heart rhythm problems. Patients that are diagnosed with slow heart rhythms often have pacemakers implanted; whereas, patients with fast heart rhythms may opt for an outpatient treatment such as radio frequency ablation.

Those patients with life threatening heart rhythms not curable by ablation or preventive treatments may receive internal cardiac defibrillators (ICD).

This was a daunting service to embark on right out of PA School. Yes, I recalled an EKG course; however sitting in morning report on my first day, I realized this was a whole different language! Behind all of the new and different faces, I saw the person, Dr. Laurence Epstein, who offered me the opportunity to work at such a remarkable institution and the vision of how PAs could impact this rapidly expanding service.

Dr. Laurence Epstein, the Director of Electrophysiology and Pacing Laboratory as well as Chief of the Cardiac Arrhythmia Service, had a vision of incorporating PAs into the service. This PA position would provide the necessary continuity of care, as well as, maintaining the quality of care. He could see the long-term value and benefit which mid-level practitioners provide. A solid fellowship program had historically been the clinical backbone of the arrhythmia service; however, every July new, unaccustomed fellows would arrive. The PAs were envisioned to provide a stable cadre of clinicians, in this highly specialized area. Their scope of practice would encompass all aspects of patient care from outpatient management to invasive highly technical procedures.

Four years later what started out as a vision has become a successful reality, well beyond pre-conceived expectations. I have become the Chief Cardiac Arrhythmia PA. The arrhythmia service utilizes five, full time PAs who are involved in all aspects of the patient care. We participate in the implantation of the devices, as well as catheter placement and radio frequency ablations. We have also implemented an independently run, non-house staff PA service that follows all post procedure patients from admission to discharge. Patient education has been a large focus of the PA service.

Given the opportunity to work with world-renowned cardiologists has been an extraordinary experience. The research projects and complex cases I have been involved with have allowed me to become published in medical journals as well as speak at national conferences. The chance I took four years ago has been well worth the exciting and rewarding career I now enjoy. Also not bad living among the three time Super Bowl and World Series champions!

Department of Physical Therapy

Message from the Chair, Dr. Dennis Fell

Hello! As a faculty, department chair, and an alumnus of the program, I send greetings to all the PT Department alumni! It is always such an encouragement for us to hear from you and get updates on your professional and personal lives. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for the Alumni Beach Reception planned on the Friday of the state APTA conference in Orange Beach. We are planning the event for late afternoon on Friday 5/5, after the courses finish, so friends and classmates can go out to eat together after visiting on the beach a while.

I also want to add my personal congratulations to each alumni with distinguished professional development and professional advancement as outlined below. You are all great examples for the profession! I want to encourage each of you to advance yourself professionally; seek specialist certification in your area of expertise, become involved in your profession and professional association (I hope you are a member and active participant in APTA!!) We need each other, and together let’s serve individuals across our country and beyond!

Recent Publications

Fell attends International Stroke Rehab Congress

Dr. Dennis Fell attended the International Stroke Rehabilitation Congress, Collaborative Evaluation of Rehabilitation in Stroke across Europe (cerise) at Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven Belgium in early February of this year. Registrants from 17 different countries participated.

USA Alumni Awarded Clinical Specialist Certification

At the recent APTA Combined Sections meeting in San Diego, five USA Alumni were awarded their Clinical Specialist Certification by the APTA American Board of Physical Therapist Specialties. The department extends sincere congratulations to each recipient:

- Claire Sweatt MacAdam, PT, NCS (USAPT 1982) Neurologic Clinical Specialist
- Wendy Sewell Byrd, PT, OCS (USAPT 1995) Orthopedic Clinical Specialist
- Mark R. Langenbach, PT, MBA, OCS (USAPT 1981) Orthopedic Clinical Specialist

Other alumni who are known to be clinical specialists include Barry Dale, PT, PhD, SCS, and Howie Tapley, PT, MS, OCS.

Please let us know if you have achieved specialist certification so we can include your name in future issues.

Recent Faculty Presentations

Dr. Jean Irión was invited to present the session “Incorporating Aquatic Programming within Women’s Health Services” Combined Section’s Meeting (CSM) of the APTA, February 3, 2006, San Diego, CA.

USAPT Offers a Web-based DPT Program for Licensed Physical Therapists

The Department of Physical Therapy at USA recently began offering a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program for licensed physical therapists with the first group of students matriculating during the spring of 06 semester. The APTA refers to this type of program as a transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) program. Physical Therapists can now advance their degree to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) in a completely web-based (fully on-line) curriculum under the guidance of experienced and encouraging faculty at South. Application to this program is reserved only for individuals who already possess a license to practice physical therapy in the US and want to advance their entry-level physical therapy degree (Bachelor's or Master's) to the Doctor of Physical Therapy in a process that will update knowledge in the field and advance their clinical decision making abilities. The web-based program consists of 20-29 semester credits of online courses, completed at your own pace. Proof of completion of an entry-level physical therapy degree, current licensure in the US, and submission of an application and portfolio are also required. Portfolio analysis is used to grant credit for professional life-experience, clinical expertise, and graduate coursework beyond your PT degree.

Who should pursue this web-based DPT degree for licensed physical therapists?

The DPT, while not currently required for PT licensure in the United States, is becoming the preferred professional degree for practicing physical therapists according to the APTA's “Vision 2020.” The DPT is a clinical doctoral degree, like MD, OD, PharmD, or DPM and is not a doctoral research degree and does not signify advanced preparation or specialization. On its own, it is not the ideal degree for a physical therapist pursuing a career in academics where research is an expectation. However, completion of the degree will signify completion of coursework to update knowledge in the major areas of PT practice and advance clinical decision making skills commensurate with Vision 2020.

The following information is detailed on the Online DPT webpage:

- Admissions Requirements for PTs with Master's or Bachelor's entry-level degree
- Admission Process and Portfolio guidelines
- Web-based DPT courses
- Academic Policies
- Costs
- Technology Requirements

You can access the most important information, frequently asked question, the application, and portfolio information at the following website address: http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pt/online_dpt.html. The application deadlines are listed on the website. The deadline to begin the program in the fall of 2006 is June 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jean Irion, the Web-Based DPT Program Coordinator at: jirion@jaguar1.usouthal.edu or (251)434-3577. Allow us to assist you in achieving your professional career goals.

Department of Radiological Sciences

Message from the Chair, Dr. Charles Newell

The spring semester is winding down, and we are in the early process of student selection for the 2006-2007 academic year. Our pool of qualified applicants continues to be strong, and our program information is now available on our web site at http://www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/radiologicsciences. You are cordially invited to visit our web site.

The University recently announced the start of the 2006 Annual Scholarship Fund campaign. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jessie T. Littleton, M.D. recently donated $20,000 to establish a scholarship in the name of his wife. Dr. Littleton’s wife is the former Mary Lou Duriezch, and I know many of you knew Mary Lou through your clinical rotations at USAMC. Dr. Littleton’s donation will be matched by the University, which will create an annual scholarship offering of $2,000 based on a total endowment of $40,000 via matching funds. While this is great news for radiography students, please remember that it is has taken twenty-plus years to accumulate $21,000 in our own departmental scholarship fund, with the vast majority of donations coming from folks just like you and me. While the current departmental scholarship fund yields up to $800 for annual scholarships, your support is still needed if we are to sustain our efforts realized over the years. So, please consider donating to the Department of Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Fund. 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. As you know, tuition and book expenses continue to rise. Regardless of your donation, your support will be sincerely appreciated.
Student Spotlight
How many brothers and sisters do you have? Well, Justin McDowell, who is one of our first-year students, has 42 brothers and sisters! This story begins when Justin's parents decided to adopt a child following several years of marriage without children of their own. Not long after the eleventh child was adopted, Mrs. McDowell discovered she was expecting a baby who was later named Justin. As it turns out, Justin is the McDowell's only biological child. For reasons many of us may never understand, the McDowell's continued to adopt children until they reached a total of 42. Justin has shared many of his memories with us including the family's participation in a television commercial for a national shoe company, and his thoughts regarding what must be going on in the minds of employees at the local restaurant when the entire family arrives for Sunday lunch. While many of Justin's brothers and sisters have grown up and moved away, the family still occupies a home with seventeen bedrooms, which contains two refrigerators, two washers and dryers, and just about two of everything else. Even though Justin describes the weekday morning activities as something approaching bedlam, he has truly enjoyed his experience growing up in a household literally filled with children. In fact, all of the stories he has shared with us are filled with love and joy. What a family!

“Class of 1988, Anthony Mosley, returned to Mobile…..”

The Graduate Corner
The Class of 1988 will be pleased to learn that Anthony Mosley, MBA, R.T.(R), has returned to Mobile, and will serve as the Administrative Director, Department of Radiology, at Mobile Infirmary. Anthony was a former administrative director in Tuscaloosa, and has experience in radiographic sales with Siemens X-ray Corp. We are proud of Anthony's accomplishments, and we wish him the best in his new position.

In Remembrance
We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Paul Robinson on February 15, 2006. Paul was a member of the graduating Class of 1980. As you may know, Paul was a long-term employee in the CT section of the Department of Radiology at USAMC where he often worked with many students during their CT rotations.

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Message from the Chair, Dr. Paul Dagenais
As the school year ends, our first group of students in the Doctor of Audiology will be heading out to start their fourth year internships. If their performance on-campus and at local sites are any indication, this will be a well received group. We will also have a group of 10 Speech-Language Pathology students graduate with their Masters degrees in May. This group has been particularly strong with all students successfully passing the Praxis examination on their first attempt and with impressive scores. Finally, we will have 15 students who will complete their B.S. in Speech and Hearing Science before the academic year is finished. We wish them all well. Some of these students were honored at the NSSHLA Banquet which was held in February. Outstanding student awards were presented to Kim Brown, a third year Au.D. student, Melissa Bailey, a second year SLP student, and Ashley Gaal, a senior in the Speech and Hearing Science undergraduate program.

In March, the Department organized the first meeting towards forming a Speech Pathology and Audiology Alumni Association. It was quite a pleasure to greet those alumni who attended. For those who missed it, a second gathering will occur on May 18th. This gathering will be held at the Banana Docks Restaurant from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We hope many of you will be able to attend. If anyone wishes to have further information, please call our secretary, Byna Stiehr at 380-2605. We hope a group of alumni will step forward to act as an advisory committee for the Department and organize shadowing activities at their work place for potential speech and hearing students. We suspect many may be interested in organizing continuing education (CEU) opportunities through the Department.

Finally, we are all excited about our new building. We have been fortunate to be accorded input into our new space. We will have 16 therapy rooms, 8 research labs, and 3 classrooms. Student space has been increased to allow for more computer stations and a larger break area. Also, the dimensions of the materials rooms has increased to accommodate our ever growing supply of testing and therapy materials. There will be a separate entrance for patients and clients coming to the clinic. Additionally, members volunteered with the annual Angel Tree event. December was another eventful month where members volunteered with the annual school-supply drive for all the clients in the clinic. Another eventful month where members participated in the Salvation Army with their annual Angel Tree event.

NSSHLA News
Jennifer Stevens, NSSHLA Chapter President
This past year has been exciting and eventful for the University of South Alabama’s National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA) chapter. The chapter has been very active this year with fundraising, service projects, and volunteering at events within the community. During the summer, NSSHLA members volunteered at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Graduation ceremony. At the beginning of the school year, NSSHLA held a school-supply drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to all the NSSHLA members, we were able to supply bookbags filled with school items for all the children within the Waveland school district. The following month, members donated items to make goody treats for all the clients in the clinic. Additionally, members volunteered with the annual carnival sponsored by the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. In November, NSSHLA officers created a cookbook with recipes donated by faculty members, clinical staff, and students. December was another eventful month where members participated in the Salvation Army with their annual Angel Tree event.

The spring semester opened with the annual banquet for the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, followed by the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama’s Convention in which many NSSHLA members volunteered. Currently, officers are conducting a raffle and organizing an open table discussion with local speech and hearing professionals as a way to say thanks for all the hard work and dedication put forth by our members.

National Stuttering Association
The Speech Pathology and Audiology Department continues to host monthly National Stuttering Association (NSA) support group meetings for people who stutter. Speech Pathology & Audiology faculty member Dr. Mandy Williams and NSA chapter leader Billy McLean work together to coordinate these monthly meetings where various topics related to stuttering are discussed. These meetings provide a forum for people who stutter and their loved ones to get together and talk about experiences associated with stuttering. These meetings are open to all who have an interest in stuttering including adults and teenagers who stutter, speech language pathologists, and family and friends of those who stutter. Many of the chapter members get the maximum benefit from professional speech therapy and meetings are an ideal place to practice speaking techniques and learn about the latest developments in stuttering research and treatment.

The NSA also sponsors a national conference, regional workshops, and publications for adults, children, and parents. The Mobile NSA chapter meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the Conference Room at the USA Speech and Hearing Center, 2000 University Commons. For further information contact William McLean, chapter leader, at (251) 604-7854 or Dr. Mandy Williams, chapter consultant, at (251) 380-2600.
NAFDA News, Susan Gordon Hickey, Chapter President

We’re very proud to announce the formation of the local chapter of the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology (NAFDA). The field of Audiology has moved to a clinical doctorate degree and the University of South Alabama began admitting graduate students Fall 2003. The local chapter of NAFDA was founded by the first two classes of Au.D. students at USA. NAFDA is a professional student organization dedicated to the advancement of education and technological training in the profession of Audiology. Our Chapter aims to provide service to the Mobile Community and USA Speech and Hearing Clinic.

The USA NAFDA Chapter recently held their first annual White Coat Ceremony honoring the third year Au.D. students; Elizabeth Marble, Lauri Starek, Kim Brown, Danielle Druyor, and Amy Kennedy (picture at right). The white coat symbolizes professionalism.