

A Salute to Interdisciplinary Studies Graduates

This issue of Live & Learn is dedicated to the students from the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies who completed their bachelor degrees in the 2008 - 2009 school year. The Department honored these students at a luncheon held December 2008. At the luncheon, senior project and internship advisors, employers, USA administrators, family and friends joined the Department in congratulating the graduates on the completion of this significant milestone. The adult students from the Adult Degree Program join over 1500 successful graduates who have completed their degrees through this program. In addition, the younger students in the Interdisciplinary Degree Program represent the growing number of traditional undergraduate students choosing interdisciplinary studies as a major.

Ed Bunnell Scholarships

Dr. Ed Bunnell was the first Dean of the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs. He had a passion for helping hard-working, bright adult students achieve their educational goals. Both of our scholarship winners depict the essence of the Ed Bunnell scholarship for deserving adult students.



Dr. Thomas Wells and Ms. Agaratha Dancy

Ms. Agaratha Dancy

Ms. Dancy began college in Chicago years ago. She later became a medical assistant in California. When she returned to Mobile, she realized she could not make the same level of income she enjoyed in California. She decided to return to college and began her studies in the Adult Degree Program. Ms. Dancy has an infectious spirit and drive.



Ms. Melissa Rhudy with Dr. Vaughn Millner

Ms. Melissa Rhudy

Ms. Melissa Rhudy's goal is to become an attorney in environmental law. In 2007, Ms. Rhudy was working three jobs and registered at the University of South Alabama. Even with her full schedule, she fully engaged in her academic success. Her biology professor, Dr. Samuel Faulkner, said of Melissa, "Although I taught Marsh Ecology at Dauphin Island Sea Lab in southern Alabama for several years and have had numerous students over the years, she was by far, one of my favorite students. The course was tough, rigorous and field-oriented. Melissa out-performed all the required tasks and more for the course. She was a 'take-charge' kind-of person and always participated 150%."

Career Women of Mobile Scholarship

The Career Women of Mobile Scholarship is given to an adult female student who meets several criteria including excellence in academic achievement and involvement in community service.

Ms. Heather Love, recipient of the Career Women of Mobile Scholarship, has been married for 17 years to her husband and is a mother of two. She will graduate with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Human Services. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and plans on continuing her studies by pursuing a master's degree in counseling. She volunteers with the American Cancer Society and is currently the Eastern Shore Relay for Life Advocacy Chair working on a Smoke-Free Alabama. She is a member of the Eastern Shore Baptist Church where she teaches 9th grade Sunday school and sings in the choir.

Dr. Elaine Klotz, representative from the Career Women of Mobile, came to the graduation luncheon to award the scholarship to Ms. Love.



Dr. Thomas Wells, Ms. Heather Love, and Dr. Elaine Klotz

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Academic Performance Award

At the December commencement luncheon, **Mary Few** was presented with the departmental "Outstanding Academic Performance Award." This is a new award instituted by the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies to recognize the achievement of our students who have earned enough hours at the University to qualify for graduation but not enough to qualify for University honors like "Magna Cum Laude" (60 hours).



Dr. Vaughn Millner, Ms. Lauren Robbins, and Dr. Betty Wilkinson

IDP Exemplar Award

The IDP Exemplar Award went to Lauren Robbins. Lauren has a magnanimous spirit that is contagious. She was always willing to help and encourage other students. She demonstrated initiative and ingenuity in choosing an internship. Her goals include travel, sports, and helping youth realize their potential. She found an internship as a counselor at leadership camps held in Switzerland and Austria, a summer job that helped her move toward all her goals.



Dr. Thomas Wells with Ms. Chasedaw Gable

semester in the Interdisciplinary Degree Program (IDP). She is a solid and ambitious student who got so excited about the business management and marketing courses at USA that she wanted to take almost all of them. Her advisor had to remind her about the years it would take to do so. She plans to open her own trendy clothes boutique and eventually to franchise it.

Thomas Corcoran Scholarship

The Thomas Corcoran Scholarship was shared by two students, **Chasedaw Gable and Adriana Solarova**.

Chasedaw has just completed her first

Adriana is from Slovakia, at USA on a tennis scholarship. She is a conscientious student with a warm, co-operative, and grateful spirit. She did her internship at the Mobile Tennis Center, working in all areas, from teaching tennis to helping run the pro shop. She hopes some day to operate such an enterprise herself.



Dr. Betty Wilkinson with Ms. Adriana Solarova

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Senior Projects

Kitty Emery's six hour empirical study of internal and interdepartmental communication at our university received high praise from her advisor, Dr. Martin Rohling of the Department of Psychology. Like many of our best senior projects, the project had its genesis in the long experience of the researcher. Ms. Emery, now in University Development, has worked for the University for more than fifteen years and seriously hopes to fix a long-standing dissatisfaction employees have with the quality of communication. She used her excellent organizational and communication skills to encourage forty employees to fill out her extensive survey. The questions addressed sending and receiving information, sources, channels, and the timeliness of information. She further sought to understand organizational relationships, outcomes, and employee satisfaction. Kitty's careful and critical evaluation of her findings shows a deep understanding of the literature. She recommends a possible procedure for following up on her preliminary findings involving broader participation and planning. Ms Emery (BS Interdisciplinary Studies; Administrative Sciences; business, sociology, psychology) received our award for Outstanding Six-Hour Senior Project for "Communication Audit at the University of South Alabama Using a Sample Population of Five Departments."



Dr. Lauderdale, Ms. Kitty Emery, (recipient of the Outstanding Senior Project Award, 6 hrs.), and Dr. Martin Rohling (Ms. Emery's Project Advisor).



Dr. Elliott Lauderdale with Ms. Martha Howard (recipient of the Outstanding Senior Project Award, 3 hrs.) and Ms. Carol Frush (Ms. Howard's Project Advisor)

For our senior project award winners this time in particular we were fortunate to have stellar mentoring relationships. Dr. Lauderdale stated, "I certainly must join the above advisors in singing the praises of responsible Adult Degree Program students and the benefits of my particularly rewarding relationship with **Liley Reese**. I looked forward to my meetings with Liley. Ms Reese's Outstanding Three-Hour Senior Project, 'Gender-Specific Therapeutic Community for Drug Dependent Women,' joins a range of approaches to substance abuse treatment with her own experience in 'the program'." The expression, "take the cotton out of your ears and put it in your mouth," is example of the informal community resources developed through Twelve Step programs. The curing and empowering lessons have brought us many inspiring co-learners throughout the history of our adult degree program. Ms. Reese shares important relational, cultural, and spiritual benefits that can accrue from gender-specific therapeutic communities like Portage programs in Norway. In contrast to somewhat more confrontational male dominated meetings, female groups can build relationships of support and empowerment among women.



Dr. Elliott Lauderdale with Ms. Liley Reese (recipient of the Outstanding Senior Project Award, 3 hrs.)



James Cyriac's project, "Should Intercollegiate Student Athletes Be Paid?" earned our honorable mention award. As James notes, Dr. Christopher Keshock was with him every step of the way toward concluding, "Since most intercollegiate athletic programs deficit spend, the reality of having ... dollars to pay all sports participants at an individual school is most unlikely." Their surveyed students preferred not to increase their fees to pay athletes.

Dr. Christopher Keshock, Mr. James Cyriac (Honorable Mention, Outstanding Senior Project, 3 hrs.), Dr. Elliott Lauderdale, Ms. Jamey Greer

TORTOISE AWARD

Mary E. Few is the recipient of this fall's Tortoise Award. She began her educational journey 44 years ago, in the fall of 1964. In her own words, this is the record of that journey:

"I began my college career in 1964 after graduating from high school. I attended one semester of college and found it was not for me at the time. I then married and raised three daughters, but I always had the desire to return to college. Recently divorced and a single mother, in 1992 I enrolled once again. I finished one class, but I felt my children were too young for me to work full-time and leave them at night to attend school. Again, I dropped out. After my youngest daughter married in 2003, I enrolled at the University of Mobile. I received my Associates Degree in General Studies from this institution. Still unsure as to what field I wanted to study, I heard about the Adult Degree Program at the University of South Alabama. Being able to design my own degree incorporating several disciplines of interest intrigued me. I transferred back to USA in 2006.

As I progressed in my studies, I realized how much I would enjoy working with the elderly. Therefore, I have chosen a concentration in Human Services that includes the disciplines of psychology, gerontology, and adult interdisciplinary studies. I would like to help the aging and their families understand the aging process as they encounter issues such as Alzheimer's and other difficult health matters that may concern them and their loved ones. I would ultimately like to become a licensed professional counselor with a concentrated interest in the elderly.

To become a LPC, I will need an understanding of human traits and behavior. The classes in Psychology of Personality and Abnormal Psychology have provided this groundwork. My brothers and I had to make the very difficult decision of allowing my mother to be admitted to an assisted living facility this past summer. I received firsthand experience in how counselors of the elderly utilize the field of psychology. The dynamics of working with four siblings, all with different perspectives on the decision facing us, made me realize how important psychology is for not only dealing with the aging, but with the families as well.

The gerontology classes have given me a tremendous understanding of the elderly. These classes have enlightened me as to how the human body ages and how to help the elderly age with dignity. Author Pearl S. Buck has written, 'Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them, for the test of a civilization is the way it cares for its helpless members.' I have taken those words to heart and have lived them through care of my aging parents.

The AIS classes, Issues in Human Services and The Adult Years, provided me with the information I needed to make the

decision to become a licensed professional counselor. I can remember a time in my teens when I thought that once adulthood hit, all problems would be solved. I learned through these classes and through life experiences that grown-up problems need grown-up help. While the best counselor can do little with an unwilling candidate, I have seen lives changed with the right techniques used with a willing client. I cannot think of a greater honor than assisting someone through this journey.

Before I started back to school in earnest, I worked full-time in my church in adult outreach ministries. The satisfaction of this job was great, and while I have always known I wanted to be in the 'helping' profession, it was only after taking these courses that this dream could be narrowed to a specific career goal. Working with the elderly, their families and adults in need is my desire. I have felt the fear and uncertainty of having medically fragile parents. I know, all too well, the need for counselors in this field."

Thank you, Mary Few, for allowing the USA Adult Degree Program to be part of your journey. It is our great pleasure to award the Fall 2008 Semester Tortoise Award to you in recognition of your earnest, persistent, enduring, prevailing, determined, steadfast, tenacious, unswerving, steady, constant, serious, unshakable, relentless, indomitable, staunch, unremitting, resolute, patient, persevering pursuit of a degree.



Ms. Karen Goodwin with Ms. Mary Few, Tortoise Award recipient.

SUMMER/FALL 2008 CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

(Degree, Concentration, Disciplines, Senior Project/Internship Site, Faculty Advisor/Internship Supervisor)

ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM

Badinger, Brenda J. BA, Human Services (Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology), *The Unique Role Oxygen Consumption May Play in Addiction Recovery*, Dr. Elise Labbe'-Coldsmith

Barnes, Jennifer S. BA, Liberal Studies (Psychology, Criminal Justice, Communication), *Scientific Jury Selection: An Analysis*, Dr. Lois Wims

Bradley, Jr., Thomas M. BA, Administrative Sciences (Business, Sociology, AIS), *A Distribution Solution for a Non-Profit Organization*, Ms. Jeanne Harris

Calhoun, Ursula BA, Community Services (Business, Political Science, Sociology), *Increasing Youth Participation in the Political Process*, Dr. Keith Nicholls

Cassidy, John M. BA, Community Services (History, Political Science, Criminal Justice), *Arson: The Crime to be Brought Into the Light*, Dr. Ronald L. Nelson

Cyriac, James J. BA, Human Services (Leisure Studies, Sociology, Communication), *Should Intercollegiate Student Athletes be Paid?*, Dr. Christopher Keshock

Davis, Jennifer L. BS, Administrative Sciences (Communication, Business, Sociology), *Does Drug Testing Help Prevent Teens from Turning to Drugs?*, Dr. Nicole Carr

Emery, Kitty J. BS, Administrative Sciences (Business, Sociology, Psychology), *Communication Audit at the University of South Alabama Using a Sample Population of Five Departments*, Dr. Martin L. Rohling

+ ***Few, Mary E.** BA, Human Services (Psychology, Gerontology, AIS), *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and the Vietnam Veteran*, Ms. Carol Frush

Garrison, D'Juana L. BS, Administrative Sciences (Business, Communication, English), *Quality Control in the Orthodontic Practice*, Dr. Nancy Lambe

***Greer, Jamey L.** BS, Administrative Sciences (Management, AIS, Communication), *Development of a Course on Cultural Competence of Healthcare Workers and Volunteers*, Dr. Elliott Lauderdale

Hammac, Jr., Darius J. BA, Community Services (History, Political Science, Sociology), *The History of Air Warfare and the Political Agendas Which Shaped It*, Dr. W. Robert Houston

Hinton, Christinia R. BA, Human Services (Education, Sociology, Psychology), *Depression and how it Manifests in Adolescents in the United States*, Ms. Peggy J. Danneker

***Howard, Martha J.** BA, Human Services (Psychology, Sociology, Education), *Becoming a Caregiver will Affect a Woman's Retirement Years*, Ms. Carol Frush

Johnson, Michelle BA, Human Services (Education, Physical Education, Sociology), *Discipline the Youth in Physical Education*, Dr. Frederick Scaffidi

Johnson, Bernadine A. BA, Liberal Studies (Communication, Geography, Leisure Studies), *New Orleans Tourism Pre- and Post-Katrina*, Dr. Kathryn Toelken

Johnston, Elizabeth A. BA, Human Services (Psychology, Sociology, Business), *Charitable Behaviors: A Case Study of a Local Non-Profit Organization*, Dr. Roma Hanks

Law, Sophia J. BA, Human Services (Sociology/Social Work, Psychology, Political Science), *The Psychological and Sociological Effects of Breast Cancer on African American Women*, Dr. Barbara Broome

Love, Heather C. BA, Human Services (Education, Psychology, Communication), *Character Education: A Cooperative Mission*, Ms. Gahan Bailey

Minor, Chrystal D. BA, Liberal Studies (Music, Psychology, Air Force Studies), *The Effects of Music on Stress and Mood*, Dr. Andra Bohnet

Orum-Sims, Kelly M. BA, Liberal Studies (English, History, Education), *A Woman's Place in Higher Education*, Dr. Elliott Lauderdale

Perkins, Tonya D. BA, Human Services (Sociology, History, Education), *The Importance of Continuity of Care when Considering Permanency for Foster Children*, Dr. Valerie L. Bryan

Powell, Jr., James M. BS, Professional Development (Physical Education, Psychology, Leisure Studies), *The Motivation and Inspiration of Athletes*, Ms. Linda Pereira

Raulerson, Katherine L. BA, Human Services (Business, Sociology, Gerontology), *Effects of Stress on Care Givers*, Dr. Joyce Varner

Reese, Liley A. BA, Human Services (Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice), *Grant Proposal for Transitional Living Program for Minority Women with Substance Abuse*, Dr. Elliott Lauderdale

Richards, Crystal N. BS, Administrative Sciences (Business, Psychology, Communication), *Promoting Culinary Tourism*, Ms. Nadia K. Bush

Salter, Mitchell L. BS, Administrative Sciences (Military Science, Criminal Justice, Management), *Women in the U.S. Armed Forces*, Timothy S. Rey LTC, AR, APMS

Senigar, Bridgette A. BA, Liberal Studies (Sociology, History, Political Science), *Quality Drug Rehabilitation for Minority Women*, Dr. Gloria Palileo

Shanahan, Kathleen W. BA, Human Services (Education, Psychology, Sociology), *Helping Students Overcome Test Anxiety*, Ms. Jennifer Simpson

Stevens, Brandi R. BS, Administrative Sciences (Business, Sociology, AIS), *Suggested Benefit Packages for Small Businesses*, Ms. Edie Mobley

Thompson, Vanessa R. BA, Human Services (Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice), *Co-Occurring Disorders: A Look at Bipolar Disorders, Crack Cocaine Addiction, and Symptoms of Coalition*, Dr. Denise McAdory

Walker, Kimberly T. BS, Applied Sciences (Management, Psychology, Nursing), *Healing Touch: Should United States Citizens Welcome Complimentary Therapy as Part of Routine Care?*, Dr. Elise Labbe'-Coldsmith

Warning, Nancy M. BS, Administrative Sciences (Sociology, Management, AIS), *Surviving the Financial Aid Dilemma: Are the Guidelines Fair?*, Ms. Melanie Bankhead

Washington, Sonya BA, Human Services (Physical Education, Education, Sociology), *Successful Transitions from Preschool to Kindergarten for Young Children with Autism*, Dr. Joe'l Lewis

Wells, Evone Z. BA, Human Services (Sociology, Psychology, Education), *Sociological Diversity in the Education of Children*, Phyllis R. Bettis, RN, MSW

+ Departmental Honors Candidate

* Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society

INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE PROGRAM

D'Arcy, Brandon M. BS, Applied Sciences (Anthropology, Biology, Psychology), *Alternatives to Traditional Burial*, Dr. Timothy Rice

Deluca, Stephanie I. BA, Community Services (Elementary Education, Sociology, Leisure Studies), Church of the Apostles, Mr. Rusty Davidson

Hansberry, Shantisha T. BS, Applied Sciences (Biology, Health and Safety, Psychology), University of South Alabama Center for Healthy Communities, Dr. Martha Arietta

Hightower, Paige E. BA, Community Services (Education, Leisure Studies, Psychology), Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, Pat Bethea

Nna, Florence C. BA, Community Services (Physical Education, Sociology, Health and Safety), YMCA, Mr. Mark Bargin

Robbins, Lauren K. BA, Human Services (Sociology, Physical Education, Health and Safety), YPO, Mr. Roger Ratner

Tucker, Jeanette BS, Administrative Sciences (Accounting, Business Management, Sociology), Walgreens, Mr. Curtis Young

Ziglar, Ashley M. BA, Human Services (Education, Sociology, Business Management), *ADHD in the Business Environment*, Ms. Kim Carroll



Graduation candidates stand and introduce themselves at the Fall Luncheon.

Advising Corner

Academic Advisors

Adult Degree Program:	Karen Goodwin, kgoodwin@usouthal.edu Kimberly Davis, kdhurst@usouthal.edu Diane Harvey, dharvey@usouthal.edu
Interdisciplinary Degree Program:	Dr. Betty Wilkinson, bwilkinson@usouthal.edu Diane Harvey, dharvey@usouthal.edu

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Deadline to apply for summer semester 2009 graduation: February 6, 2009

Deadline to apply for fall semester 2009 graduation: May 29, 2009

Note: Students must have their graduation plan and rationale approved by the Department before applying for graduation. Graduation applications must be obtained from the Department.

Summer semester priority readmission deadline: March 13, 2009

Fall semester priority readmission deadline: March 13, 2009

Last day to drop courses or withdraw completely for spring semester 2009: March 27, 2009

Summer and fall registration for continuing and returning students begins: April 13, 2009

Spring semester IST Graduation Luncheon: May 7, 2009

Spring semester commencement: May 9, 2009

AIS/IST Summer Course Schedule:

Course, CRN	Course Title	Instructor	Days	Time
AIS 105, 31853	Encounter with the Humanities	Lakeman, T.	TR	5:30-7:45 pm
AIS 125, 30753	Professional Conduct	Wilson, L.	Online	
AIS 201, 31377	Seasons of Life	Haynes, L.	Online	
AIS 301, 30054	Adult Learning-Crit Reflection	Lauderdale, W.	M	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 305, 31851*	Issues in Human Services	Bogar, C.	W	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 305, 30069*	Issues in Human Services	Bogar, C.	W	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 350, 30901	Critical Expression - W	Wilkinson, E.	R	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 380, 30057	Research Methods - W	Lauderdale, W.	W	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 401, 31852	Adults in Society	Bogar, C.	Online	
AIS 430, 30060	Senior Project - W	Millner, V.	T	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 496, 31864	Prof Studies - Internship	Wilkinson, E.	W	5:30-10:00 pm
AIS 499, 31374	Honors Senior Project - H - W	Millner, V.	T	5:30-10:00 pm
IST 498, 31865	Internship II-Capstone Exp - W	Wilkinson, E.	W	12:30-5:00 pm

*AIS 305 will be taught simultaneously at the Baldwin County Campus (CRN 31851) and at the Main Campus in Mobile (CRN 30069).

Note: The fall schedule of courses will be available in PAWS prior to the beginning of fall registration.



Ms. Diane Harvey, new advisor in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department

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 Professor: Dr. E.B. Hannum
 Associate Professor: Dr. Vaughn Millner
 Assistant Professors:
 Dr. Elizabeth Wilkinson
 Dr. Elliott Lauderdale
 Manager, Assessment: Ms. Kimberly H. Davis
 Academic Advisors:
 Main Campus: Ms. Karen Goodwin
 Ms. Diane Harvey
 USABC: Dr. Christine Bogar
 Secretary: Ms. Denise Compton
 Student Assistant: Ms. Carol Jarvela
 Director, Interdisciplinary Degree Program: Dr. Elizabeth Wilkinson

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