



THE CRUCIBLE



“A Place..... In which concentrated forces interact to cause or influence change or development”

Newsletter from the College of Allied Health Professions, University of South Alabama

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THE CRUCIBLE

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Message from the Dean, Dr. Rick Talbott



As the azalea's from which Mobile derives its sobriquet bloom, we are looking forward to the spring and the end of another productive year in the College of Allied Health Professions. As featured in another article herein, we were very proud to have one of our alumni selected for the first national distinguished alumni award. Dr. Laurie Beth Owen's selection is emblematic of the quality of the graduates from our College and the quality of the education our students receive across all of our programs of study.

There are many individuals who contribute to the success of our students including the faculty, staff, academic advisors, and university administrators. There are also other less recognized individuals who dedicate their time, experience and knowledge to assisting the College in its goal to ever improve the quality of education and our research and service to the community. These dedicated individuals serve on the College Advisory Board. They are well respected and successful members of the community who have generously dedicated their time in assisting me and other members of our faculty. Their insights and guidance helps us evaluate the quality of our product, our students, and provide insights and guidance helps us evaluate the quality of our product, our students, and provide insights into the future health care needs of our region and the country. We are fortunate to have such a talented group of dedicated individuals to assist us in both our long and short terms planning for the College and are proud to introduce them to you in this report.

Dr. Bert Eichold, II, M. D. Dr. P. H. is the current Health Officer for Mobile County and also serves as the Area Health Officer for Public Health, as position he has held since 1990. Dr. Eichold hold several. Dr. Eichold is a very active member of the community and serves on several significant boards and committees. He holds faculty appointments in several departments in the Medical School and is a member of many community service organizations.

Ms. Sharon Young is the owner of Mobile Spine and Rehabilitation Center and has been a practicing physical therapist in the local community for over 24 years specializing in orthopedic physical therapy. Ms. Young has been a very active member of her professional community and brings the invaluable perspective of a practicing clinician to the Board.

Message from the Dean, Dr. Rick Talbott

Mr. Owen Bailey has been President and CEO of Thomas Hospital since 1993. He holds a Masters degree in Health Administration. He has received numerous awards in the healthcare industry and the community including the 2001 Up and Comer Award from *Modern Health Care*, the Young Healthcare Executive of the Year from the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the Sam Walton Business Leader Award from the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Clark Christianson has served as President and CEO of Providence Hospital since 2000. He holds a Masters degree in Hospital and Health Care Administration and has been a active member and contributor to both professional and civic organizations including the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board, the Emergency Response Commission to the Health Care Crisis, and the Alabama Hospital Association's State Regulatory Committee.

Mr. Stan Hammack serves as Chief Executive Officer and University Associate Vice President for the University of South Alabama Hospitals. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from USA. He has served with distinction in several university hospital administrative positions as well as numerous professionals offices. He currently serves as Chairman of the Alabama Hospital Association's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.

Ms. Jamie Ison received her Master's degree in Education for the Deaf from the University of Mississippi and served as the Executive Director of Mobile Preschool for the Deaf and, from 1990 to 2003, as Regional Director for Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. She is currently serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Mobile Advisory Commission for Disabled. In 2002, Mrs. Ison was elected as State Representative for House 101 in the Alabama Legislature.

Mr. Alexander Saad is Executive Vice President of Saad Enterprises, Inc. and Project Director for Gordon Oaks Retirement Community. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Alabama. He is very active in business enterprises in the Mobile community. Mr. Saad received his B.S. degree in Business Administration.

Dr. Sam Strada is a Professor of Pharmacology and has served as Senior Associate Dean at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine since 1993. Dr. Strada is a nationally recognized leader in his field of research and has published over 100 articles in his area of expertise. He has been very active in his professional associations and served as President of the Association for Medical School Pharmacology Chairs and the Southeastern Pharmacology Society.

As is obvious from the very brief description of the members of our Advisory Board we are fortunate to have the benefit of this group of outstanding individuals to assist us on behalf of students, current and future, and thank them for their dedication and concern for the quality of education of our future, and thank them for their dedication and concern for the quality of education of our future health care providers and researchers.

Rick Talbott, Ph.D.

Dean

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Message from the Dean's Office

Grantsmanship Program

The Dean's office and the USA Office of Sponsored Programs organized a one-day symposium on grantsmanship for faculty in the College of Allied Health Professions on December 16. Dr. Maggie Pyle (Sponsored Programs) addressed a group of about 35 faculty members describing sources of funding relevant to health professions, on-line data bases, and the basics of grantsmanship. This program was followed by a training program to develop grant proposals during the spring semester. For more information about the program contact **Dr. Julio F. Turrens, Associate Dean** at 251-380-2785 or by email at jturrens@usouthal.edu.



Faculty awards

The Gold Key chapter of the honor society Mortar Board honored twenty-eight USA faculty members during the first "Top Prof Night" banquet celebrated on February 21. Seven of these awards went to faculty in the College of Allied Health Professions including: **Drs. Zari Aliabadi, Steve Itaya, Michael Spector, Cindy Stanfield, and Julio Turrens** (Biomedical Sciences), **Drs. Dennis Fell and James Wall** (Physical Therapy) and **Dr. Julie Estis** (Speech and Pathology and Audiology).

We are proud of our faculty for receiving these awards, particularly when we consider that the faculty in the College of Allied Health Professions constitutes less than six percent of the full-time faculty at our institution, and they received twenty-five percent of the awards!

Alumna from the College of Allied Health Professions honored by the University of South Alabama National Alumni Association

The National Alumni Association of the University of South Alabama has instituted an Annual Alumni and Service award to recognize distinguished graduates who have excelled at the national level as well as other individuals who have helped in the development of this institution. The event was celebrated with a banquet in the ballroom of the student center on Friday, February 18. The service awards went to Mayer and Arlene Mitchell and Abe Mitchell and James and Anne Nix for their contributions to our institution.

Dr. Laurie Owens, a graduate of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program (1979, formerly Medical Technology), received the award for her contributions in the area "Skin Cancer Research". Other alumni receiving awards included: **Ms. Tina Allen** (Sculptor), the Honorable **Michael C. Dow** (Mayor of Mobile), **Mark S. Hoffman** (CEO, Corporate Express) and **Jon Lieber** (Pitcher, Philadelphia Phillies).

Dr. Owen is a well-recognized researcher who has extensively study the mechanisms of ultraviolet (UV)-induced skin cancer. Her research efforts focused much attention upon importance of UV radiation in the development of skin cancer. In particular, how the body defends itself against non-melanoma skin cancer. While at the University of Texas's MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Owen's laboratory was the first to identify a protein pivotal to natural defense against skin cancer development. Currently Dr. Owen is Director of Research and Development at BioLegend, Inc and adjunct Professor of Biomedical Sciences, at the University of California-Riverside. She continues to be an active advocate for skin protection from the effects of sunlight. Her public appearances on CNN nightly news, PBS, National Public Radio, and the British Broadcasting Company have allowed her to keep the public aware of dangers of overexposure to sunlight and melanoma.

Department of Biomedical Sciences

Many of the students graduating in the Spring of 2005 have already been accepted to various graduate programs. **John D. Adams, Bobby Kakati** and **Christie Bean** have been accepted to the USA College of Medicine; **Amit Bharara, Nidhi Gupta** and **Gowri Srinivas** will attend UAB School of Medicine; **Derrick Christopher** will go to Vanderbilt School of Medicine; **Jessica Gill** will attend medical school at St. Mathews University; **Luciane Brown** and **Jillian Janda** have been accepted to the Physician Assistant programs at USA while **Mark Lentner** will attend the same program at Nova Southeastern University; **Daisy Anderson** and **Tessa Ritchie** will attend the School of Dentistry at UAB, and **Tara Smith** will attend Optometry School at the same institution.

“Biomedical Sciences students have been accepted to various post baccalaureate programs “

Department of Cardiorespiratory Care

The Department of Cardiorespiratory Care participated in the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Health Career Occupations Fair, on February 17 and 18 in the Mobile Civic Center arena. Faculty and students demonstrated respiratory care procedures to approximately 1200 Mobile and Baldwin county high school students. This annual event helps to increase awareness of health careers and encourages young people to consider health professions. High school students are chosen by their science teachers to participate. Visitors to our booth participated in pulmonary function screening, tracheal intubations, mechanical ventilation, and high frequency chest wall oscillation.

Faculty News



Timothy Op't Holt, Ed.D., R.R.T., AE-C, F.A.A.R.C., Professor of Cardiorespiratory Care has been elected to the board of Association of Asthma Educators (AAE). The AAE is a national organization of respiratory therapists, nurses physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants and others who care for and educate asthma patients and their families. The primary purpose of Association of Asthma Educators (AAE) is to promote asthma education as an integral comprehensive asthma program, to raise the competence of health care professionals who educate individuals and families affected by asthma education delivered to those with asthma. The three-year appointment begins April 1. For more information on the AAE, visit www.asthmaeducators.org.

Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Message from the chairperson, Dr. Holly K. Hall, (hhall@usouthal.edu)

Spring is the season when the growth starts anew, and so with CLS, we are in process of selecting our 31st class. We anticipate a full class of bright new students, excited to begin in August. Our soon-to-graduating Class of 2005 are eagerly responding to a plethora of available jobs from visiting recruiters as far away as Orlando, FL. We are very proud of our alumna, Laurie Beth Owen, Ph.D. ('80), who was honored as one of the first National Alumni Association of the University of South Alabama Distinguished Alumni Awardees. Laurie worked as a CLS at USAMC for two years after graduation. If you are not yet a member, I urge you to join the USA Alumni Association @ <http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni.html>. You will find out about many interesting USA activities.



“The Sam P. Fleming Scholarship will be awarded to a CLS senior who financially deserves and plans to work and contribute to the field.”

For the fourth year, the Sam P. Fleming Scholarship will be awarded to a CLS senior who financially deserves and plans to work and contribute to the field. With the increasing cost of education rising, there are always multiple worthy applicants. I am asking that each of you consider contributing to this endowment fund. Every contribution is valued and will help us reach our goal of awarding scholarships to two students. AND it's a great time to contribute since every dollar of your donation will be matched by the University. You may contribute directly via our department or contact Ms. Ginny Turner, Director of University Development, HSB 2150, 307 University Boulevard, Mobile, AL. 36608; 251-460-7032. Be sure to mark your donation for the Sam P. Fleming Scholarship Fund. Please let us know where you are and what you are doing. Contact: hhall@usouthal.edu. We always enjoy hearing from you.

Alumni news

Theresa Kittle (CLS '99) received her master's degree in public health from the University of Mississippi.

Travis Hammond (CLS '94) has applied for doctoral program in Pharmacology Toxicology at the Washington State University.

Joe Formichella (CLS '82) who works at Thomas Hospital in Fairhope, is a published novelist. *“The Wreck of the Twilight”* is his fictionalized version of the 1993 Amtrak derailment just north of Mobile that claimed 47 casualties.

Faculty News

Vicki Barrett is one of eight members on the national Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine Examination Committee for the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). She reviews/edits/writes the 550 exam items for ASCP specialty certification exams in Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine. Ms. Barrett attended a workshop March 16-19 in Chicago with other members on the Committee and administrative staff for the ASCP Board of Registry to compare and review efforts.

Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Carliss**. His latest research *“Dextromethorphan Potentiation of Morphine Analgesia in Mice is Sex Specific”* has been accepted for publishing in *Pharmacology, Biochemistry*.

Dr. Holly Hall has been appointed to the Emergency Preparedness Community Relations Committee of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The committee is charged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the relationship of academic institutions in our state to deal with infectious disease emergencies, environmental and non-clinical testing for organisms of national security interest.

Obituary

USA professor **Michael V. Hogan** died from cerebral aneurysm Tuesday, January 4 at the Springhill Avenue Campus. Dr. Hogan, an Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, was 48 years old. Hogan, who had been with USA since spring 2004, was renowned cell biologist and neuroendocrinologist. He studied the effects of neurohormone melatonin and magnetic stimulation on the brain, and was interested in their potential use as clinical treatments for Alzheimer and Parkinson disease. Hogan presented his most recent research at the International Conference of the Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields in Kos, Greece in October 2004. Hogan was an excellent mentor, dedicated to teaching clinical biochemistry. “In his short career at USA, he demonstrated an innate ability to transfer his passion for biochemistry into enthusiasm within his students” said Dr. Holly Hall, chair of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. He will be greatly missed by those whose lives he touched.



Dr. Hogan received his Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from Illinois Benedictine College with clinical training at the University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago. He received his doctoral degree in Cell and Molecular Biochemistry from Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. From 1988 to 2004, he was a Research Associate/Associate Professor at the City University of New York, Staten Island.

Department of Occupational Therapy

Alumni Award

Staci L. Barsuhn, OTR/L (see picture, center) received the 2004 Fieldwork Supervisor Award at the annual occupational therapy senior ceremony held in December. Staci received this award for her hard work and dedication to the clinical education of occupational therapy students and her support of the University of South Alabama Occupational Therapy Program. Staci is employed at West Florida Hospital-Pavilion as an in-patient occupational therapist.

Rose M. Wittersheim, OTR/L received the Outstanding Alumni Award 2004 for her continued commitment and dedication to the occupational therapy profession through her involvement in clinical education and leadership in professional organizations. Rose is employed at USA Knollwood as an in-patient occupational therapist and is 1997 graduate of USA. **Dr. Nancy VanSlyke** (picture, left) and **Ms. Tracy O'Connor** (picture, right), both faculty in the Occupational Therapy Program, presented the awards.



Ms. Wooster presents in Australia



Donna Wooster, MS, OTR/L, BCP had the pleasure of doing a presentation “down under” in Melbourne, Australia. She presented at the Queen Elizabeth Centre conference entitled *The Critical Early Childhood Years: Rethinking Current Interventions and Strategies*. Mrs. Wooster’s presentation was *Best Practice Assessment and Intervention Methods for Non-Organic Failure-to-Thrive in Infants and Toddlers*. She was in the company of several noted international speakers including Professor Lynne Murray, Ph.D. and Professor Hilton Davis, Ph.D., both from London. She reports that attending this conference gave her a new perspective on issues related to rural service delivery. Australia’s west coast is sparsely populated with difficult terrain and providing services in that area is a challenge for their early intervention staff. The Queen Elizabeth Centre was showcased their sleep lab that helps families with children with sleep problems. Also, it was interesting to note that although socialized medicine is available in Australia, many more of the upper middle class and wealthy individuals are choosing to purchase private insurance to ensure they receive care promptly and in the better private hospitals and clinics. While she was there, Mrs. Wooster met an American born speech therapist, Julie DeAngelis, who is living and working in Melbourne, Australia. It turns out that Ms. DeAngelis has a sister and brother-in-law who live right here in Mobile. It’s a small world after all! After the conference, Mr. and Mrs. Wooster took the opportunity to tour Australia and go snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef and climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Australia is really a large country with diverse landscape. It’s great place to visit.

OT Students Participate in Nationwide Standardization Project

Occupational therapy students were able to participate in a nationwide study. In the Evaluation I course students were required to administer the *Miller Function and Participation Scales* to preschool aged children in the Mobile area. This was a wonderful learning experience to practice test administration and data collection. They followed all the research protocols and obtained informed consent from the parents. The data collected in this study was provided to **Dr. Lucy Miller**. It will be combined with data from other parts of the U.S. for the standardization sample. Dr. Miller is a nationally recognized researcher and occupational therapist. In 2004 Dr. Miller received the Marjorie Ball Award of Merit, the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado’s most prestigious award. Dr. Miller was recognized nationally by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) with their highest honor-the Award of Merit and she was also inducted into the AOTA Roster of Fellows of Excellence in Research and Diagnostic Assessment at the same event. It was a wonderful learning experience for our students and provided data representative of the Southeastern US. Ms. Wooster and Ms. Lemcool spend many hours supervising the students during this process. Money earned from this research endeavor will be donated to the Klie Davis Faulkner Scholarship Fund in the Occupational Therapy Department. Many thanks to the Child Day Care Association of Mobile for their efforts in obtaining informed consent and providing us with testing space.

Occupational Therapy Alumni present papers

Cindy Blackwell, Nakeysa Hadrick, Heather Hall and Jennifer Johnson, all 2004 graduates of the Occupational Therapy Program, have been invited to present their research project, *“Reliability and Validity of the Safe Elderly People Test (SEPT)”* at the 85th Annual American Occupational Therapy Association Conference. **Dr. Nancy Van Slyke**, the students’ faculty research advisor, will represent the students in Long Beach, California in May.



Dr. Nancy Van Slyke, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, recently participated in a multidisciplinary professional team that addressed the health and rehabilitation needs of children and adults in Huaycan, Peru. Huaycan, located outside of Lima, is a community of approximately 1200 individuals; 75 percent of the families in this community include at least one disabled family member.

“Dr. Nancy Van Slyke participates in an overseas program to help disabled individuals.”

Through the coordinated efforts of Rotary International and the Love of Peru Foundation an Association for Disabled Individuals was established in 2003 and a Rehabilitation Center was completed and dedicated in 2004. The focus of this year’s team was to evaluate and fit individuals for wheelchairs. Approximately 200 individuals were evaluated and 75 wheelchairs were customized from used wheelchair parts. In addition to evaluating and fitting clients, Dr. Van Slyke helped establish a documentation system for the Rehabilitation Center. This was Dr. Van Slyke’s third year to provide volunteer services in Huaycan.

Department of Physician Assistant Studies

An Update from a member of the first graduating class of PAs at USA

Shelly Nicely, PAC graduated in August of 1998 and has had many fascinating experiences since then:

We called ourselves the guinea pig class. What an adventure PA school was for me and my classmates, and it hasn’t stopped yet. After graduation in August 1998, I worked as a PA in Gastroenterology at the White-Wilson Medical Center in Fort Walton Beach, FL. The primary of my three supervising physicians was an awesome mentor, who helped me ease into the real world of charting and billing correctly for appropriate insurance reimbursement of medical services rendered.

In May 2000, my family and I moved to Seoul, Korea, via my husband’s career in the U.S. Air Force. We lived on the Yongsan Army Garrison, where I was lucky enough to find gainful employment as a PA. I worked in Family Practice in the Ambulatory Care Clinic of the 121st General Hospital. Physician Assistants are not a type of recognized or licensed health care provider in the Korean economy, but nurse practitioners are. There are several dozen PAs in South Korea, but any employed as PAs are as active duty military or as civilian contractors or employees via the US Government. As a health care provider in the Army hospital, I saw active duty and retired military members, their family members, and even some members of foreign consulates with the United Nations Command. Many of my patients were from the United States, but also from Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam, Russia, Japan, and China. For the most part, my work was similar to that of any Family Practice PA. There were several interesting differences in practicing though. Some of my female Korean patients requested *“whole body CT scans,”* a relatively common thing to have done there (but not a U.S. Army Post). Patients brought in their prescribed medications from off-post facilities in plastic-sealed packets,



each packet with a daily dose of all medications needed; with no labels, instructions, or medication names on the packages. I learned that I can communicate fairly well with the use of hand gestures and synonyms. I am now very familiar with the U.S. Immigration requirements for immunizations, and know far more about malaria, tuberculosis, and SARS than I will ever need for my national recertification exam. I had the honor of Korean medical students shadowing me to learn more about my profession, and I'm also excited to say that I am protected from Hepatitis A and Smallpox.

While in Korea, keeping up with my CME was no problem. The 38th Parallel Medical Society offered an annual conference in Seoul with a variety of topics, but I can never top the lecture on *"Medical Effects of Nuclear Warfare."* One of the most interesting talks came from Dr. Linton, a U.S. medical doctor who was raised in North Korea and returned to practice there. He had slides and stories of health care in every province in North Korea, including the unshielded radiologists. I always hoped to aid him in his travels there, but the closest I got was a tour of the DMZ (the demilitarized zone on the 38th parallel between North and South Korea, the most heavily guarded border in the world).



The tour of the DMZ was not the only traveling I did while living in Seoul. My family and I made use of the very modern, clean subway system to go to the zoo, historic sites, and amusement parks in the Seoul area. I learned how to bargain hard while shopping, but made the best use of it while in Beijing, China. My children, my husband, and I have climbed the Great Wall of China, visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and eaten Peking Duck. We took great advantage of our travel opportunities while in Asia, to include visiting Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Fiji, and several locations in Thailand, which became our favorite vacation spot. We enjoyed Koh Samui and Phuket, but have a hard time imagining what it must be like to travel there after the recent tsunami. My children are begging to get back on an airplane to go somewhere, but are appeased with one-hour drive to Disney World in Orlando.

In May 2004, we returned to the U.S. and now live in Tampa, FL. Lucky for me, that is where I maintained my state license while practicing in Korea. I'm trying out a new specialty that makes me appreciate my own health: Pain Management. The flexibility of the PA profession has allowed me to maintain employment wherever I have lived, and afforded me the ability to work part-time at times to be home for my children while they are young. But look out, now that the travel bug has bitten, my husband and I have plans to go on *"The Amazing Race"* television show once the kids are older. Our times pent overseas has shown us how adaptable and flexible we can all be when put to the task. We just hope our kids remember all the great things they've seen, done (and eaten) as they grow up.

Department of Physical Therapy

Message From the Chair, Dr. Dennis Fell (defell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)



This Fall Semester, the PT program will begin its 30th year as a quality physical therapist educational program, continuously accredited by CAPTE. The program has now graduated 721 physical therapists, practicing extensively across the United States, but especially across Alabama. The final MPT class will graduate in May 2005. The first DPT class which started Fall 2004 (8 semester curriculum) will graduate in May 2007. Visit our website www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pt to find out more information that you can share with prospective applicants. I encourage you to join the USA National

Alumni Association <http://www.southalabama.edu/alumni.html> if you are not already a member and you'll automatically become a member of the PT Alumni Society within the Alumni Association. The cost is reasonable and we don't have a separate fee for PT, but it will support some of our alumni activities. This will help us to keep in touch with you as we facilitate more alumni events and reunions. If you would like to help coordinate a reunion for your class, contact Dr. Fell or Dr. Gray. It is always lots of fun to get a letter or email from one of our graduates, and we especially like visits!

"The program graduated 721 physical therapists, practicing extensively across the United States, especially across Alabama."

PT Faculty Give International Presentations

This past year, **Drs. Dale, Fell, Wall and Prof. Jefferson** all were invited to present reports of their research efforts at the 14th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, in Barcelona, Spain. **Drs. Fell, G Irion and J Irion** all presented research results at the American Physical Association national 2004 Combined Sections Meeting in February, and **Dr. Wall** completed an intensive research collaborative research effort with the University of Kuwait, including several peer review publications and an international presentation at the Oman Physiotherapy Association conference. The PT Department will be well represented at the 2005 APTA conferences. **Drs. G Irion, J Irion, and Prof. Jefferson** all presented at CSM in New Orleans and **Dr. Fell** has two presentations accepted for the Annual Conference in Boston. In addition, **Dr. Dale** will make one platform presentation, three research presentations at the Southeastern Athletic Trainers Association conference in Atlanta, GA.

Growing Our PT Scholarships

In an effort to continue to strengthen our program and recruit top-notch students, the Department is working to grow its scholarships. We are currently awarding three scholarships each year (Panus, Archambault/McCoy, and Gault) and developing a fourth scholarship in honor of Mrs. Anne Harrison Petty upon her recent retirement. We hope all alumni will consider making a donation to the scholarship fund, especially during the current window of opportunity with all alumni donations being matched. This is a great way to double your donation! And donations to the University are tax deductible! Please make any contributions payable to USA and mail to Dr. Dennis Fell (1504 Springhill Ave, Room 1214, Mobile, AL 36604) along with a letter explaining the donation and the year of your graduation from the program.

Faculty News

Prof. Charles Gray Completes Doctoral Degree



Professor Charles Gray, PT, DPT, completed his transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in August 2004 through the online degree program of Temple University. Professor Gray has now completed 27 years of service to the department

and college!

Prof. Jefferson Wins International Award!



Professor Santos Sastre, former president of the Asociacion Espanola de Fisioterapeutas (AEF) announced the authors of the four best papers presented at the 14th International Congress of WCPT, presented in Barcelona, Spain, and selected by the International Scientific Committee. The presentation, "*Peripheral Joint Assessment: A Multimedia Laboratory Manual*," by **Prof. John Jefferson** was selected as one of the four award recipients. A cash prize of 1,500 euros was also awarded for the excellent presentation.

PT Admissions

Admissions to PT schools are certainly getting more competitive. For 2005 we have 128 applicants for the 32 positions. Last year's averages for those admitted were 3.60 cumulative GPA, 3.51 Math/Science GPA, and 1108 GRE score. The job market is very strong. We hope each of you will do your part to encourage quality students to pursue the profession!

Send Us Your Alumni News

As we get close to mounting our PT Alumni page on our website, we want to post some of your "*Good News*" on the website. Please send an email to <ptdept@jaguar1.usouthal.edu> (that is the numeral one after 'jaguar') and tell us your latest job news, family news, etc. Please include a sentence in the email that says "*I give you permission to post this information on the department website.*"

Join us for the Alumni Beach Reception, April 22nd

The PT alumni will have an informal come-and-go beach reception on Saturday 4/23 in conjunction with the CEU conference by the Alabama Physical Therapy Association in Orange Beach, AL at the Perdido Beach Resort. Look for us at the white tent on the beach. Call your classmates and encourage them to meet you there! Call us (251)434-3575 so we'll know you are coming and have enough food.

Alumni Spotlight

Jeff Boyles, PT, ('91) has been re-elected to his second term as President of the Alabama Physical therapy Association. Way to go Jeff! Sidney Scarborough ('88) formerly Rehab Director at Providence Hospital in Mobile now has a new job as vice President of Operations/ Ambulatory Care at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, FL.

Department of Radiological Sciences

Greetings from the Chair, Dr. Charles Newell (cnewell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)

The spring semester is well under way, and we are preparing to begin again the process of student selection for the 2005-2006 academic year. Our pool of qualified applicants continues to be strong, and program information is now available on our web site at www.southalbama.edu/alliedhealth/radiologicsscience. You are cordially invited to visit our website.

The University has recently announced the start-up of the 2005 Annual Scholarship Fund Campaign. With this in mind, I would like to once again solicit your support for our scholarship program. Arrangements to make donations to the Department of Radiological 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 the amount of your donations, your support will be sincerely appreciated.

Radiation Therapy students recently received an award from the local American Cancer Society

In conjunction with the annual Paint the Town Pink breast cancer awareness walk held in October 2004, the American Cancer Society hosted its first poster competition. The goal of the competition was to enhance public education and awareness of breast, lung, skin, and prostate cancer. The first-place trophy was awarded to our first-year Radiation Therapy students for their entry, "*Killer Fashion*."

We are saddened to learn of the recent deaths of two colleagues

Ms. Leslie Alexander, Class of 1991, passed away on December 26, 2004. Leslie was formerly employed as a radiographer at USAMC, Providence and the Mobile Infirmary. During the past two years, she was employed at Computer Programs and Systems, Inc. working primarily as an installer of computer software.

Mr. Nelson Perry passed away on January 29, 2005. Nelson was the Radiation Safety Officer at USA for twenty-five years, and served as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Radiologic Sciences where he taught Radiation Biology and Radiation Physics. Nelson was honored by friends and students at a recent memorial service with special attention directed to his love of teaching, dedication to students and his always present "western neckties."

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Awards

Several SPA students will receive awards at the annual NSSLHA (National Students Speech Language Hearing Association) banquet.

Dean's Award to outstanding undergraduate: **Susan Walker**

Department's Award to outstanding undergraduate: **Jennifer Landrith**

Department's Award to outstanding SLP graduate: **Lauren Buckalew**

Department's Award to outstanding Ph.D. graduate: **Fawen Zhang**

NSSLHA outstanding contributor: **Melody Mathews**

In the Fall, there were three recipients of the Marjorie Faircloth Award. Marjorie Faircloth was Chair of Speech Pathology and Audiology from the early 1970's until 1985. She was responsible for getting approval for the Master's degree programs. She retired due to Parkinson's disease. The Faircloth scholarship was instituted to honor her and as a means to assist students to meet costs of their education. The fund has grown such that we can offer three \$350 scholarships to students. Traditionally, two graduate students, one in Audiology and one in Speech-Language Pathology and one undergraduate student are selected. Graduate students are selected by vote by the faculty and clinical staff based upon observed clinical expertise. The undergraduate recipient is chosen by overall GPA as they enter their senior year. Recipients selected in August 2004 were Amy LeTort and Caitlin Roberts, both graduate SLP students, and Jennifer Landrith who received the undergraduate award. No graduate Audiology students were selected as the Doctor of Audiology program had only begun Fall 2003 with the first class to graduate in Spring 2007.

Daniella Renfro, a second year SLP graduate student has been selected for the Outstanding Student Award by the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama (SHAA). She will receive her award in Opelika in March during the annual SHAA convention.

Fawen Zhang received a Student Travel Award from the American Speech Hearing Language Association (ASHA) to present a paper at the annual meeting of ASHA in Philadelphia, PA in November, 2004. The paper, entitled "*Contra lateral suppression of distortion-product otoacoustic emissions*" was co-authored by Dr. X-S Sun of Wichita State University and Dr. F.A. Boettcher of USA. Ms. Zhang is a Ph.D. student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Elizabeth Meztista Adams, Ph.D. CCC/A graduated in May 2004. Recently, her dissertation entitled "*Effect of noise on judgment of speech rate and performance on speech understanding measures with and without simulated hearing loss*" was judged Best Dissertation at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Adams will receive her award at the 12th Annual University Research Forum on April 14 2005.