USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital Dedicates New Expansion

The USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital nearly doubled its size with the Sept. 12 dedication of a new 195,000-square-foot expansion tower. University and hospital dignitaries joined employees, new and former patients and friends of the hospital to snip a bright green ribbon symbolizing completion of construction.

More than 400 people attended the public ceremony, which was held in front of the new addition and featured a children’s choir as well as testimonials from current and former patients.

The $72.6 million expansion, funded by the USA Health System, the USA Foundation and private donors, features more space for the hospital’s neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, additional operating rooms, and larger patient rooms to better accommodate visitors and patient families. Vital support services, such as an enlarged cafeteria and kitchen, and professional teaching and community education space are also included in the five-level expansion.

Two “family rooms,” designed to make hospital stays more convenient for family members of patients, have been created by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile Inc.

To celebrate the opening, a series of events was held, including a physicians’ preview night, a donor reception and employee tours.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, more than 800 people attended a Community Open House sponsored by Hancock Bank. Participants enjoyed art projects, visits with local artists, a Wii dance party, face-painting, the Pet Therapy team and refreshments.

With nearly 2,700 deliveries each year, USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital is Mobile’s leader in births. The hospital has the area’s only Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and a pediatric intensive care unit, each uniquely equipped and staffed to provide the region’s most advanced care for premature, critically ill and critically injured children. The NICU treats some 1,000 babies annually, with one-quarter of the babies coming from other hospitals in the region.

USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital also features the award-winning USS Hope pediatric cancer and sickle cell treatment center, along with a High-Risk Obstetrical unit and Labor and Delivery Unit that are regional referral centers. The hospital’s Mapp Child and Family Life therapy program addresses developmental, physical and emotional needs of young patients, and includes the unique Class Act school that teaches nearly 1,000 children each year.

Faculty Senate Launches Monthly Faculty Fandango

The University’s Faculty Senate aims to build work and social alliances with the return of the Fourth Friday at Four Faculty Club Fandango.

Dr. Doug Marshall, chair and associate professor of sociology, anthropology and social work, said the Faculty Senate hopes to expand its efforts with the meetings, which began at the end of spring semester. He said the informal meetings should give faculty members more opportunities

Dr. Doug Marshall
STEM, camp. This program integrates teachers will enhance their public school systems in Mobile and mathematics teachers and students in summer camp for middle school comprehensive three-year academic requires the implementation of a Development Project, to help raise a $462,000 grant to create the College of Education has received middle schools. The first summer Chastang, Grand Bay and Mae Eanes teachers from Central Baldwin, The grant focuses on mathematics simultaneously with student learning, teacher professional development demonstrates the distance of planets and planet movement during the University’s College of Education Alabama Math, Science, Technology Initiative, AMSTI-USA Professional Development Project. Participating, from left, are Will Lewis, program administrator; Javon Walker, 11, Semmes Middle School; Dr. Andre Green, principal investigator and associate professor in the College of Education; Christopher Thomas, 11, Dunbar Creative and Performing Arts Magnet School; and Amarian Foster, 10, Phillips Preparatory School.

USA Announces New AMSTI Program to Enhance the Teacher and Middle School Students Classroom Experience

The University of South Alabama's College of Education has received a $462,000 grant to create the Alabama Math, Science, Technology Initiative, AMSTI-USA Professional Development Project, to help raise student math scores. Part of the grant requires the implementation of a comprehensive three-year academic summer camp for middle school mathematics teachers and students in public school systems in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

Teachers will enhance their teaching skills at a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, camp. This program integrates teacher professional development simultaneously with student learning, which is unique for Alabama schools.

The grant focuses on mathematics teachers from Central Baldwin, Chastang, Grand Bay and Mae Eanes middle schools. The first summer camp was held at Baker High School.

The grant, awarded by the Alabama Department of Education, has the capacity to help up to 540 students per year. The collaborating partners are USA's College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Integrative Studies in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or CISSTEM; AMSTI-USA school systems in Mobile and Baldwin counties; and the Mobile Area Education Foundation's Engaging Youth in Engineering program.

“This STEM summer camp creates a culture of increased learning in a diverse environment for the students and teachers,” said Dr. Andre Green, associate professor in the department of leadership and teacher education in the USA College of Education. “This camp allows students to increase pedagogical knowledge in math, science and engineering. One of the focuses of the grant is to allow teachers the opportunity to both enhance and try new teaching methods that are hands-on and inquiry-based in an environment free of standardized tests.”

Green said when teachers discover that they are more likely to achieve better results with an inquiry-based teaching approach, both teachers and students benefit. He said the results show that students are enjoying STEM subjects better.

Will Lewis, AMSTI-USA PDP program administrator, said the STEM summer camp is structured and meets the standards of the Alabama Courses of Study. One goal of this summer’s camp was to increase student achievement in mathematics with a focus on science and engineering through real-world applications.

“Overall, this project is exceeding expectations,” Lewis noted, “Teachers are pleased to see students achieve at a high level. This means that when teachers have high expectations, students will rise to meet the challenges.”

The principal investigator for the grant is Green. Co-principal investigators are Dr. Phil Feldman, associate dean of education, Dr. Julie Cwikla, professor of education; and Dr. Cornelius Pillen and Dr. Vasily Prokhorov, professors of mathematics and statistics.

The teachers work in teams of three to ensure that students have individual support in the classroom.

Jeremy Hunter teaches eighth-grade physical science and serves as department chair at Hankins Middle School. Hunter said the problem-solving opportunity this program affords the students is extremely rewarding.

“I love to teach and have fun, and seeing all kids from different schools come together to learn during a project is the best part for me,” Hunter said.

At the end of each day at camp, teachers in all subject areas come together to debrief about the day's activities and talk about achievements and challenges in their teaching approach. The STEM summer camp also includes subject-specific learning communities so that teachers from each school can learn from each other. In mathematics, teachers build content knowledge by participating in math circles with Pillen and Prokhorov.

During the STEM summer camp, the students are involved in numerous academically challenging activities, such as playing board games and discussing their strategy for winning, understanding the energy of motion and how roller coasters work, explaining the distance of planets in the solar system, calculating the blood flow rate to help a patient suffering with a blood clot, and investigating a crime scene.

The students enjoy being involved in this program and eagerly share how much they are learning.

“I am learning about how far the planets are from each other,” said Javon Walker, an 11-year-old sixth-grade student from Phillips Preparatory School. “This has been a fascinating experience.”

Any middle school student in Mobile and Baldwin counties can apply for the program. Applications will be accepted in Spring 2014. For more information, contact the USA School of Continuing Education and Special Programs at (251) 460-6283.

Dr. Yaguang Xi Receives First American Cancer Society Grant Given to USA

Dr. Yaguang Xi, assistant professor of oncological sciences at the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, has received a $720,000 research grant from the American Cancer Society to study preventing the spread of breast cancer. The grant is the first awarded by the American Cancer Society Grant to the USAMCI and USA.

According to a recent American Cancer Society report, the survival rate for women diagnosed with localized breast cancer is 98 percent. However, if the cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes (regional stage) or distant lymph nodes (distant stage), the five-year survival rate decreases to 84 percent or 23 percent respectively. Therefore, the prevention of tumor metastasis (or the spread of cancer) and progression is critical to improve the long-term survival of breast cancer patients.

Given the recent studies that show daily use of aspirin can reduce the spread of cancer to distant organs, Xi and his team have set out...
Celebration of USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital Expansion

Ronald McDonald Helps — Mary Lou Hyland, left, board president, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile; Paul Giardina, executive director, Ronald McDonald House; Ronald McDonald; and Owen Bailey, administrator, USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital; dedicate the new Ronald McDonald House Family Rooms inside the new 195,000-square-foot expansion to the hospital.

Visiting with Donald Duck — Aine Zirlott, 2, listens to Donald Duck as Daisy Duck looks on during the Community Open House held Sunday, Sept. 15, at USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital. More than 800 people attended the day’s festivities, which wrapped up the hospital’s extended celebration for completion of its new expansion tower.

Sharing the Sunshine — Emma Rae Perkins, left, and Starla Chapman enjoy their moment in the spotlight during festivities to dedicate the new expansion tower at USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital. The youngsters were members of a choir comprised of current and former patients who sang “You are My Sunshine” for the audience.

Thanking Everyone — Dr. John W. Smith, USA acting president, speaks to a crowd of about 450 people on Sept. 12 during dedication ceremonies for the expansion of USA Children’s & Women’s Hospital.
DR. YAGUANG XI RECEIVES FIRST AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY GRANT GIVEN TO USA
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to characterize a tumor suppressor, quaking (QKI), as the target of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) when preventing the spread of tumor cells in their study titled “Quaking Mediates the Inhibition of Breast Cancer Metastasis by Sunlindac.” They will be using the drug sulindac because it is better tolerated than aspirin and is readily available for clinical trials.

Xi has been motivated to protect patients from breast cancer progression and metastasis through his years of work as surgeon.

“My career goal is to use my knowledge and findings to help women with breast cancer,” Xi said. “Early detection, early treatments and most importantly, prevention are the keys to eradicating breast cancer. The success of this project will provide ultimate insights into development of safer and more efficacious therapies with the long-term potential of eradicating this malignant disease.”

Xi joined the research department of USAMCI in 2008.

FACULTY SENATE LAUNCHES MONTHLY FACULTY FANDANGO
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to develop new ideas and academic relationships.

The event’s name comes from meeting on the fourth Friday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Club.

“Our hope is to have a social event for the faculty as a whole where they can come together in an informal atmosphere to socialize with one another,” Marshall said. “As an example, this month we’re focused on welcoming new faculty, giving them a chance to find a faculty mentor to help them navigate their first year or two in their new position. We are also helping new and established faculty seek out and find new collaborative partnerships across the University as a whole.”

Dr. Ellen Buckner, chair of the Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee and professor of nursing, is leading that effort in conjunction with the Office of Research and Economic Development.

Attendees will have a free selection of non-alcoholic beverages and hors d’oeuvres. A cash bar will be available for beer, wine and mixed drinks.

For more information about Fourth Friday at Four Faculty Club Fandango, e-mail dougmarshall@southalabama.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA CAMPUS CALENDAR

Friday, October 4, 2013

The department of physician assistant studies will hold an Open House, 4-6 p.m., in the auditorium of the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions. Information on admissions, curriculum, clinical rotations and the entire physician assistant profession will be presented. Attendees may bring family members or friends. For more information, call Karen LaSarge, admissions coordinator, at (251) 445-9336, or visit www.southalabama.edu/alliedhealth/pa.

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Social Media & Technology Users Conference will be held 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at USA Baldwin County Performance Center, 111 St. James Ave., in Fairhope. Early registration tickets are $9 each, plus a $1.22 processing fee. Tickets will be $15 at the door. Tickets are non-refundable, and only cash or checks will be accepted at the door. To pay by credit card, visit www.myusabc.com. Seating is limited. Proceeds will go to the USA Baldwin County scholarship fund.

Wednesday-Friday, October 9-11, 2013

The USA Physicians Group will begin Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics free of charge exclusively for USA employees at six locations on three consecutive days. USA retirees are ineligible. Family members, including children four years old and older, covered by the USA Health and Dental Plan are also eligible for seasonal flu vaccines at these clinic sites free of charge. Appointments are unnecessary. Employees must show their USA employee ID and provide the required consent form, which can be completed online. Family members will need to bring their USA Health and Dental Plan cards. For locations and other information, visit www.usahealthsystem.com/flu/vaccine.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

The USA Psychological Clinic will offer free, confidential online screenings for depression and anxiety. For more information, contact the clinic at (251) 460-6569.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Jordan Greer’s Random Act of Kindness Day will be observed in remembrance of the 21st birthday of the USA student who died on March 26. For more information, call Karen Peterson, director of the Center for Academic-Service Learning and Civic Engagement, at (251)460-6148, or e-mail kpeterson@southalabama.edu.

An information session about the USA Adult Degree Program begins at 5:30 p.m. in Room 101, Alpha East Extension. The session will cover online, weekend, on-campus and blended courses. The session repeats Tuesday, Oct. 22, at noon. Reservations are required. For more information, call Kimberly Davis at (251)460-6263, or e-mail kdhurst@southalabama.edu.

Got Calendar Info?
E-mail items to midweekmemo@southalabama.edu

Send USA Campus Calendar Events Today

Items may be submitted to the calendar the following ways:

• E-mail items to midweekmemo@southalabama.edu and pubrel@southalabama.edu

• Fax to the Office of Public Relations at 460-7827

• Mail to the Office of Public Relations in Room 256, Administration Building

• Use the submission form on the calendar page Web site

You can access the calendar at www.southalabama.edu/usacal/campuscalendar

NEWS FOR USA EMPLOYEES NEWS FOR USA EMPLOYEES NEWS FOR USA EMPLOYEES

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