

The Responder

TM

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FIRST STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM DEPARTMENT'S NEW BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM

The first graduating class of the University's new Bachelor's degree program in Emergency Medical Services received their diplomas during the University's Spring Commencement at USA's Mitchell Center on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

The first graduating class (shown below) received their diplomas by President Gordon Moulton.

Jeff Carter	Curtis Mathis
Phillip Creighton	Linda Oldham
Chuck George	Josh Ramey
Ben Jernigan	Melissa Sutton
Tina Maloy	Mark Turner



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

*From Left to Right: Back Row: Mark Turner, Philip Creighton, Curtis Mathis, Jeff Carter, Ben Jernigan, Chuck George
Front Row: Linda Oldham, Melissa Sutton, Tina Maloy
Not pictured: Josh Ramey*

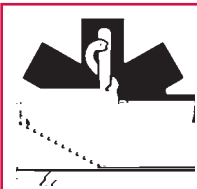
(Bachelor's Degree continued on page 2)

EMS Department organizationally moved to College of Allied Health Professions

After 36 years (1972-2008) as an academic department in the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs, the Department of Emergency Medical Services officially became a department in the University's College of Allied Health Professions in August. This move was the result of the University's on-going commitment to realign all of their health-related educational programs under a newly developed Health Sciences Division. The new Health Sciences Division is made up of the Colleges of Nursing, Allied

Health Professions, Medicine and the University's new Pharmacy Program.

At the present time, the EMS Department has no plans to move its physical location – the Department will remain on the University's Brookley campus, but will administratively report to the Dean of the College of Allied Health Professions, Dr. Richard Talbott. With the addition of the EMS Department, the College of Allied Health Professions now has nine academic departments.



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Please visit our website: www.usouthal.edu/ems

BACHELOR'S DEGREE *(continued from page 1)*



*Linda Oldham, winner of Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.
From left: David Burns, Department Chair; Linda Oldham,
Dr. Richard Talbot, Dean*



Graduation, May 9, 2009

In addition to completing the General Education and Paramedic Core requirements of the curriculum, these students completed a 34 semester hour EMS Core, which consisted of courses such as EMS Systems, EMS Law & Legal Issues, and EMS Research, to name a few.

Students in the new degree program can complete the EMS Core requirements of the curriculum in 12-18 months, depending on the student's desired course-load. One of the best features of the new program is the intense weekend format. It allows students the opportunity to complete EMS Core classes on

alternating weekends in order to reduce the number of trips to campus and to provide a more conducive schedule for working adult students. Classes are held on Friday afternoons, all day Saturday and on Sunday mornings (approximately every other weekend). By using this format, students are allowed time in between weekend sessions to take care of work and family obligations.

For more information about the Department's Bachelor's degree program, please call Ms. Lyndal Curry, B.S. Degree Program Coordinator at 251-431-6418 or contact her at lcurry@usouthal.edu.



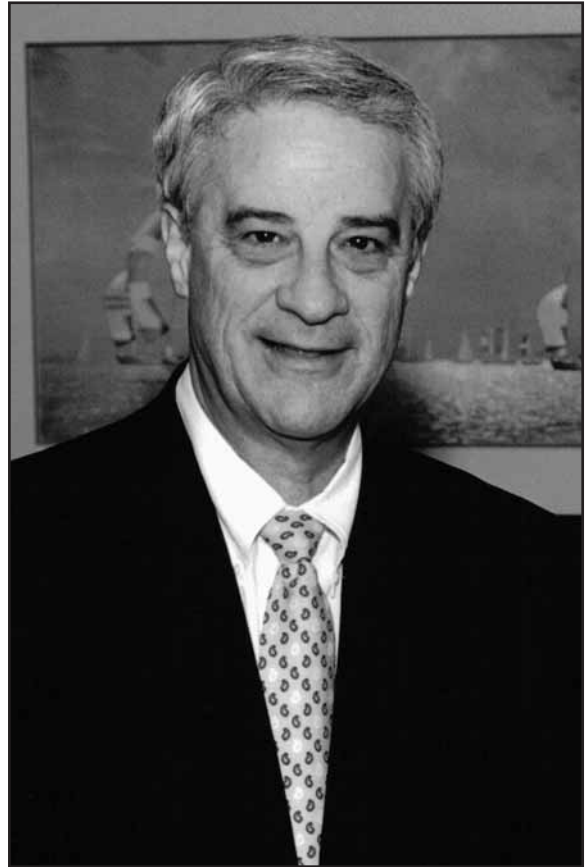
Faculty in graduation regalia

Dr. Tom Wells retires after 33 years at USA

Dr. Tom Wells, Dean of USA's School of Continuing Education and Special Programs, retired from the University on June 1st after more than 33 years of distinguished service. Dr. Wells was very instrumental in the development of the University's Paramedic training program in the 1970's as well as the Center for Emergency Response Training (CERT) in the 1980's. All of the faculty and staff in the Department would like to thank Dr. Wells for his support and advocacy over the past 33 years. Without his leadership, the Department would not be where it is today.

Dr. Wells began his career at USA in 1976 as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the University's Educational Research and Development Center. He also served in other capacities, including Director of the University's Brookley Center and as an Assistant Dean. Dr. Wells became Dean of the School of Continuing Education in 1986. He has devoted a major part of his professional time to the advancement of experiential learning in the University and in the private sector. He is active in the Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning, American Association of University Administrators, and the Association for Continuing Higher Education, among others.

Best wishes to Tom and his wife Julia.



Mobile Fire Rescue Department establishes the Snodgrass-Tally Paramedic Scholarship Endowment

Last April (2008) the Mobile Fire Rescue Department (MFRD) made a pledge to contribute \$20,000 to the University to set-up a scholarship endowment for MFRD employees. As part of USA's five-year endowment campaign, Campaign Leadership, this new endowment will provide scholarships to deserving students in the University's EMT Paramedic Program. The MFRD made their initial gift of \$5,000 in April 2008 and has committed to the rest over the next five years.

This gift by the MFRD is a testament to their commitment to emergency medical services and to paramedic education at USA. The MFRD is the

primary 911 emergency medical provider in the city of Mobile. With over 500 employees and over 120 licensed paramedics, they represent one of the largest EMS services in the region.

The University would like to thank Chief Billy Pappas (USA 1979) for his on-going commitment to the University of South Alabama Paramedic Program and for his leadership in establishing this very important endowment for paramedic education. The endowment is named in honor of the department's first program director, Ms. Mary Ann Talley (1977-1993) and the department's first medical director, Dr. Phillip Snodgrass.

EMS News In Brief...

Spotlight on Scotty McArthur – USA’s New EMS Clinical Coordinator

The Department of EMS Education would like to welcome Scotty McArthur into the fold. Scotty has been around USA EMS for years as a proctor and has finally come on board full time as our Clinical Coordinator.

Scotty graduated from Davidson High School in 1988 and was off to college but his heart really wasn't into his studies. However, he soon became interested in EMS after observing how well the paramedics cared for his mom when she was injured in a bad wreck. Scotty recognized something he could really get excited about – EMS! As a Basic EMT, Scotty started volunteering for Mobile County EMS 20 before going to work for the old Fountain's ambulance beginning in 1993. He went on to complete his Intermediate EMT in March of 1994. Soon after, Scotty moved to Rural Metro/MedStar in Baldwin County and worked there for 8+ years. During his time at MedStar, he returned to school and completed his paramedic certificate at USA in 2000. In the meantime, he has put in stints in industrial medicine with Ipsco Steel and the Mobile Infirmary Industrial Medical Clinic. Currently he is working to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in EMS here at USA.

Scotty's wife, Kelly, and sons, Tyler and Trey, are excited to have him working at USA and they are looking forward to supporting the new Jaguar football team this Fall. We, here at the USA Department of EMS Education, welcome Scotty to our family and wish for him to enjoy many happy years working with the University of South Alabama.



Congratulations Paramedic Graduates

Congratulations to all of the graduates of the Paramedic Program over the past two years. Graduates for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic years are shown below.

2007-08 Paramedic Graduates

Scott Balzer	Judith Hall	James Peterson
Brandon Bishop	John Heronime	David Ratcliff
Adam Byrd	Jason Hickey	Stephen Schmidt
Terrell Charlton	James Hinton	Miranda Tyson
Wyth Clabom	Michael Horwath	Christopher
Charla Clarke	Paul Madey	Windham
Frank Duke	Kenneth McLarty	
Christopher Fisher	Christopher Newman	
Thomas Gebhart	Jared Parker	

2008-09 Paramedic Graduates

Nathanael Adams	Drew Korb	Desiree Smith
Charles Andrews	Joseph Machen	Joycelyn Smith
Laura Bishop	Kristina Moore	Rebecca Varner
Mark Bishop	Ersin Ozcan	Jeanie Waldrop
Virgel Christian	Brian Payne	Shea Welford
Todd Cullpepper	Howard Popple	
Matthew Davis	Robert Schmidt	

Lyndal Curry Promoted to Senior Instructor

On August 1, 2009, Ms. Lyndal Curry was promoted to Senior Instructor in the Department of Emergency Medical Services. Ms. Curry has been with the University and the Department of EMS since May 2001. She currently serves as the Department's Bachelor's Degree Program Coordinator and teaches in both the BS Degree and Paramedic Certificate programs. Congratulations Lyndal on your much deserved promotion.

Receive Free EMS Update from the State Office

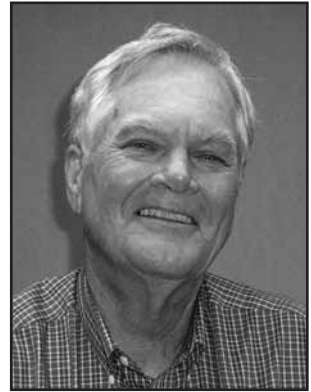
EMS Update, the official periodic newsletter of the State Office of EMS and Trauma (OEMST), can be accessed free of charge by anyone through the Internet by visiting the OEMST web-site at www.adph.org/ems. The current issue as well as past issues can be found under the News from the Office of EMS and Trauma link on the front page. Alabama licensed EMTs and Paramedics with a valid e-mail address may also receive this newsletter via their e-mail. If you need to update your e-mail address with the State, please send your updated information via emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us or call their office at 334-206-5383.

Uncle Dave Retires from his full-time post as CE coordinator

The Bad news.....on June 1, 2009, one of our long-time and most valuable employees, Mr. Dave Faggard (aka 'Uncle Dave' to most of you), decided to officially retire from his full-time post as CEU coordinator.

The Good news...on June 15th, Uncle Dave returned as a temporary, part-time field/training officer for the Region 6 office. A note from Uncle Dave follows...

"It is now official, I have RETIRED from my full-time employment at USA. I do, however, plan to stay on in a part-time capacity until they run me off. My days each week will vary depending on what the department's needs are with respect to my time. If anyone needs to contact me, the best way will be by e-mail. Even on my days off, I will always monitor my e-mail.



I would also like to take this time to introduce the young lady that will take over as the CEU Coordinator for the department. Her name is Kristen McKenna; she was with AMR Ambulance Service as a Paramedic and has an extensive background in EMS as a provider and as an educator. I know the CEU program will be in great hands for she is younger, more energetic, smarter and a whole lot prettier than I am. I am asking that all of our CTC instructors who have given so much to make my job easier to please continue your commitment to AHA training. I am sure Kristen will be calling you. Kristen's e-mail address is kmckenna@usouthal.edu and her phone number is 251-431-6418.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for making my job here so pleasant. Should any of you ever need anything, please call or e-mail me. If I am not here at the University, then you can find me on my pier with an ice cold beverage in my hand. If you ever find yourself near my bay house, please stop by...there will always be another cold beverage in the fridge for you." Uncle Dave

Jeremy White joined the regional office on June 1, 2009 as the Trauma Coordinator. Jeremy's primary function will be in coordinating the AGEMSS Regional Trauma Advisory Council quality improvement committee. Dr. John McMahon serves as the chairman of the committee. The quality improvement committee will be a vital link in the continual success of the trauma system.



Charlie Erwin promoted to Chief Petty Officer in USCG Reserve

Charlie Erwin, a full-time Instructor in the Department of EMS, was promoted to Chief Petty Officer (CPO) in the United States Coast Guard on November 1, 2008. Mr. Erwin was one of only three reservist from Sector Mobile in the 2008 class. Charlie has had a very lengthy career in the military, having served in active duty status for the US Marine Corps (USMC) in the 1980's and as a reservist for the USMC and USCG ever since.
Congratulations Chief Erwin!

Alabama Gulf EMS System – AGEMSS (Region 6) News

The Gulf (Region 6) Region has been very busy over the past year, particularly with the development and implementation of the regional trauma system plan. Some of the activities undertaken by the Region 6 office this year so far include:

- Continued to assist the State Office of EMS and Trauma (OEMST) with the State Trauma System Plan. Over the past year, AGEMSS has formulated its Regional Trauma System Advisory Council (RTAC) and gained the approval of its Regional Trauma System Plan from the State Trauma Advisory Council and the State Committee of Public Health (SCPH).



Trauma Systems Training Seminar

- Continued to provide training to all EMTs and Paramedics in the Region relative to the new regional trauma systems plan. Educational and information sessions are on-going and should be completed by August 1st. When complete, AGEMSS will have provided training to over 2,500 EMS providers in Region 6 including, EMT's, Paramedics, ER Nurses, Physicians, volunteer first responders and paid fire fighters.
- Assisted the OEMST with mandatory site visits at area hospitals in order to determine and verify the level of trauma care (Level I, II, or III) that can be offered by each of the 17 hospitals in Region 6 under the new plan.
- Equipped 100% of the Region's ALS transport services (ambulances and helicopters) with Rescue CPAP machines. CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) is quickly becoming the standard of care for the pre-hospital treatment of congestive heart failure and other diseases that cause severe respiratory distress in emergency patients. AGEMSS purchased and distributed 110 Rescue CPAP machines to all 17 ALS transport services in Region 6.

- Distributed a total of 110 inflatable infant car seats and 112 Pediatric Spine Boards to ALS ambulance services in the Region. The car seats and spine boards were purchased through an EMS for Children (EMS-C) grant through the Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Purchased and distributed 125 Pediatric Transport System Units to ambulance services throughout the region.
- Conducted periodic meetings with regional participants and stakeholders including the Regional Training Coordinators Committee, the Medical Control and Accountability Committee, and the Regional Trauma Advisory Committee, among others.
- Hired one full time Continuing Education Coordinator (Kristen McKenna) and two part-time field/training officers, Jeremy White and Dave Faggard.

Annual EMS Conference scheduled for August 29-30 in Orange Beach

The Alabama Gulf EMS System (EMS Region 6) will be holding their annual EMS conference this year at the Orange Beach Community Center in Orange Beach, Alabama. The two day event is scheduled for August 29th and 30th. The first day (Saturday) will run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Day two (Sunday) will run from 8:00 am until noon.

This year's conference will be FREE to any EMT or Paramedic who lives or works in EMS Region 6. The conference is for EMTs and Paramedics only and will also provide conference participants with 12 CEU's (provided they attend both days).

For more information about this year's conference or to register over the phone, please call David Garmon or Kristen McKenna at 251-431-6418.



David Garmon

AHA Courses September 1 to December 21, 2009

BLS

September 14
October 5
November 2
December 7

ACLS Refresher

October 8

PALS Provider

September 24-25
November 19-20

ACLS Provider

September 3-4
November 5-6

PALS Refresher

October 28 (Children & Women)

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS RELEASE 5/27/09

ADPH designates USA Medical Center as Level I Trauma Center

The Alabama Department of Public Health has designated the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile as a Level I trauma center. USA is the first medical center in the Gulf Region of Alabama to receive this official designation following the passage of state legislation in 2007 which established a coordinated system. The center provides the highest level of emergency care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“A Level I center provides a systematic response to trauma that utilizes resources from all medical specialties to meet the special needs of the seriously injured patient at a moment’s notice,” Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said. “This organized approach greatly improves the patient’s chance for survival.”

Three Alabama hospitals—Children’s Hospital of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, and Huntsville Hospital—had been designated Level I trauma centers prior to the passage of the 2007 legislation. Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 45. Almost 80 percent of Alabama’s trauma cases are caused by motor vehicle crashes. Other trauma cases involve falls, drowning, burns and poison ingestion.

Dr. John Campbell, medical director of the Office of EMS and Trauma, said, “We applaud the medical staff at the University of South Alabama Medical Center for its ongoing commitment to trauma care.”

Beth Anderson, USA Medical Center administrator, said, “We’re honored to have our Level I trauma center status, and look forward to the development of a statewide trauma system that will mean better care for Alabama’s most seriously injured patients.

“As the region’s only Level I trauma center, our trauma team has a preplanned coordinated response, ready to implement as soon as a call for help is received,” Ms. Anderson said. “It begins with patient care at the scene of the injury where specially trained health care professionals—including EMTs and paramedics—perform initial resuscitation, treatment and triage of injured persons.

“Transportation to our trauma center is facilitated by ambulance or air ambulance, where the USA Medical Center trauma team stands ready to begin treatment along with all necessary services, including operative care, if needed,” Ms. Anderson said.

History in the Making...State of Alabama Trauma System

The Alabama Gulf EMS System (ADPH EMS Region 6) will join Birmingham Regional EMS System (ADPH EMS Region 3) and the North Alabama Trauma System (ADPH EMS Region 1) in the State Trauma System on August 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. The formal ceremony is scheduled at the Orange Beach Community Center during the 2nd Annual AGEMSS Educational Conference.

AGEMSS would like to thank Dr. Richard Gonzalez for his dedication serving as the “champion” for the completion of the hospital evaluations and leading the AGEMSS Regional Trauma Advisory Council (RTAC).

The following hospitals in the AGEMSS region are participating in the system: Atmore Community Hospital; D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital; Evergreen Hospital; Grove Hill Hospital; Infirmiry West; Jackson Hospital; Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center; Monroe County Hospital; North Baldwin Infirmiry; Providence Hospital; South Baldwin Regional Medical Center; Southwest Alabama Medical Center; Springhill Medical Center; Thomas Hospital; University of South Alabama Children’s and Women’s Hospital; University of South Alabama Medical Center; and Washington County Hospital. Soon to join our regional group will be Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi and the Baptist Hospital and Scared Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

A trauma system is a coordinated system of care that includes emergency medical technicians, a trauma communications system, hospital emergency department staff, trauma surgeons and other physicians who provide needed surgical and other care. These providers work together to determine the best possible course of action for the injured persons reported through the 911 system.

Alabama is currently in the process of developing a statewide trauma system which will help save lives and reduce the burden of trauma. The system will improve the chance of survival, regardless of proximity to an urban trauma center. The trauma system is voluntary and all hospitals are invited to participate. Participating hospitals will be designated as levels I, II or III, depending on their resource and service availability. Hospitals are inspected to verify that they can provide the level of care for which they have applied.

Alabama will be the only state in the nation with the capability to constantly monitor the status of every trauma hospital and route the trauma patient to the most appropriate hospital every time. This system will serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

The Alabama Trauma System is built around a high-tech communication center that coordinates patient transport to the appropriate initial facility. The communication center also facilitates transfer of patients who must be stabilized locally before transfer for definitive care. This is accomplished by a staff that monitors a computer network relaying an up-to-the-minute status of all trauma hospitals and resources, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The system is overseen by a quality improvement process that provides an avenue to solve problems while ensuring the highest level of care.



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