Welcomes New Chair of Neurology

Dr. Dean K. Naritoku

Dr. Dean K. Naritoku was recently appointed professor and chair of neurology at the University's College of Medicine. Naritoku fills the post vacated by Dr. William Hamilton, who retired following 23 years of service to the department.

Prior to his appointment with the College of Medicine, Naritoku served as professor and associate chair of neurology and director of the Center for Epilepsy at the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine, Springfield, Ill.

At SIU, Naritoku also directed the office of therapeutics research, and served as the fellowship director of clinical neurophysiology for the school of medicine.

Naritoku received his medical degree from Chicago Medical School and completed his internship in internal medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He completed neurology residency training at Washington University in St. Louis. Following his residency, he completed a neuropharmacology and epilepsy fellowship also at Washington University.

Naritoku is board certified in neurology and clinical neurophysiology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and is board certified by the American Board of Clinical Pharmacology. He is also a member of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, the American Epilepsy Society, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians. His interests center on improving health care delivery to underserved populations in our region.

Naritoku has published extensively on basic and clinical research and is the recipient of numerous grants. He also holds multiple U.S. patent awards. These include methods of treating traumatic brain injury by vagus nerve stimulation; methods of modulating aspects of brain plasticity by vagus nerve stimulation; and methods for improving learning or memory by vagus nerve stimulation.

ARHA is a volunteer organization that advocates for the preservation and enhancement of health care for citizens in rural Alabama.

According to ARHA, 55 of Alabama's 67 counties are considered rural. Rural regions present a challenge to health care providers because they tend to have fewer health care practitioners, including fewer specialists. This shortage requires rural doctors to have a broader range of medical knowledge and skill than their urban counterparts. Another challenge for rural health care providers is the patients themselves. Rural residents tend to be older, have lower incomes, and experience greater transportation limitations than those who live in urban areas.

“The importance of having a physician in the rural community goes beyond the day-to-day care of those living there. It also has a direct relationship to the area's financial stability and future growth,” explained Perkins. “When companies are selecting a place to locate their businesses, two factors weigh heavily on their decision – first is the quality of education in the community, the second is access to quality health care.”

Members of ARHA work to improve health care in rural Alabama in various ways, including educating physicians and providers interested in working in rural areas and supporting health care policy impacting rural hospitals and access to care. USA is actively involved in the education of health care providers through training physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals.

Perkins has been a member of the USA College of Medicine faculty for close to 15 years. During this time, he has been heavily involved in many educational and clinical facets of the USA Health System, including serving as director of the family medicine residency program and as medical director for the USA Family Medicine Center.

He is a member of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the Association of Family Practice Program Directors, American Academy of Family Physicians and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians. His interests center on improving health care delivery to underserved populations in our region.

USA Family Medicine Chair to Lead Alabama Rural Health Advocacy Group

Dr. Allen Perkins

Dr. Allen Perkins, professor and chair of family medicine at the University’s College of Medicine, was recently elected president of the Alabama Rural Health Association.

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Inaugural "GO for Gynecological Oncology" Race Ends in Success

The inaugural 5K road race “GO for Gynecological Oncology” held on the University’s main campus, raised more than $11,400 for the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute’s Gynecological Cancer Research Endowment.

The race drew a crowd of more than 600 people with more than 500 racers. "It was an outstanding turnout that hopefully will create momentum for next year’s race. In addition to helping fund research, the race raised awareness of gynecological cancers and drew attention to an area where research is needed,” said Dr. Rod Rocconi, who serves as Abraham A. Mitchell Clinical Cancer Research Scholar and a staff physician for gynecology oncology service.

The funds raised for the endowment will be used to advance efforts, increase knowledge and understanding of gynecological cancers, develop new treatments for ovarian and gynecological cancers, and for prevention through public education and outreach.
Mark Twain
American Author
Library in Memory of
Endows Study Room at
Mobile Businessman
childhood in Missouri and
took a simple thing like his
literary genius,” Sloan said. “He
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Adventures of Huckleberry
and Huck in the classic, “The
through the characters of Jim
an early condemnation of slavery
credits him with tremendous
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his many contributions to
American letters.
Mobile businessman Ross
Sloan has given the University a
$50,000 endowment to honor the
memory of beloved
American author and humorist
Mark Twain.
The “Sloan Endowment to
Honor Mark Twain Fund”
includes the naming of a study
room at the Main Library in
Twain’s honor, and it also will
allow the library to buy resources
by and about Mark Twain and
his many contributions to
American letters.
Sloan considers Twain a great
man of literature and letters and
credits him with tremendous
insights into his times, including
an early condemnation of slavery
through the characters of Jim
and Huck in the classic, “The
Adventures of Huckleberry
Finn.”
“I think of Mark Twain as a
literary genius,” Sloan said. “He
took a simple thing like his
childhood in Missouri and
turned it into creative genius. If
there was ever a friend who was
trying to educate America, it was
Mark Twain.”
Sloan, a native of Mobile,
studied history during his
undergraduate and graduate
courses and taught at Bishop
State Community College in the
1960s. A lifelong learner, author
and historian, he now owns his
own insurance agency.
“Ever since my college days,
I have been a worshipper of
creative genius. That is exactly
what Mark Twain was. I want
every person on the street and
every student who walks into the
library to understand that.”
Sloan notes that the 100th
anniversary of Twain’s death will
be marked in 2010.
In each new book purchased
through the Sloan gift, a name
plate will be placed to honor the
donor and the memory of
Mark Twain, said Dr. Richard
Wood, dean of University
Libraries.
“An endowment to acquire
and share books, journals, audio
or video recordings, or other
library resources by or about any
individual, event, country, or
topic is a very meaningful way
for a donor to recognize
someone or something,” Wood
said. “After recognizing the many
humanitarian, medical, scientific,
and other contributions of Albert
Schweitzer with a similar
endowment in 2005, Ross Sloan
has chosen to recognize the
literary and humanitarian
accomplishments of one of the
earliest and greatest figures in
American literary history,
Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
Mr. Sloan’s second library
endowment will allow the
University Library to acquire
information resources by and
about this great man and
establish a Twain group study
room as a permanent testament
and reminder of Clemens’
contributions.”
Ginny Turner, director of
University development, said,
“Ross Sloan is a wonderful
friend to the University. We
especially treasure his gifts given
to further heighten awareness of
our history’s great humanitarians
and educators such as Albert
Schweitzer, and this year, Mark
Twain. Mr. Sloan’s desire to
honor each of these great leaders
by naming group study rooms in
the Library will assure that
historical teachings and literary
works are continually recognized
by USA students and others who
visit our area’s greatest resource
for knowledge, the USA
Library.”
In 2003, Sloan gave USA a
$100,000 gift that supports both
the College of Arts and Sciences
and the University Library.
The gift provides for an
endowed scholarship in USA’s
College of Arts and Sciences,
sponsorship of a group study
room in the new addition of the
University Library, and support
for the library’s collection
development.
Sloan’s $50,000 gift to the
College of Arts and Sciences
established the Albert Schweitzer
Endowed Scholarship Fund,
which provides a $2,500 annual
scholarship to an undergraduate
student majoring in any of the
college’s 19 departments.
The scholarships will be
awarded to students who best
reflect the humanitarian ideals of
Schweitzer through community
service to the underserved.
Sloan’s $50,000 gift to the
University Library established
the Albert Schweitzer Center
and Group Study Room, and
helps to build the Arts and
Sciences Collection Development
Enhancement Fund.
Located in one of the
library’s 18 new group study
rooms, the center is marked with
a plaque and decorated with
memorabilia featuring
Schweitzer—a physician,
philosopher and the 1952
recipient of the Nobel Peace
Prize.
The room contains a catalog
of library holdings that lists
works authored by Schweitzer as
well as those written about him.
Material in philosophy, medicine,
music and other fields associated
with Schweitzer have been
provided by the gift.
The Sloan gift is part of
Campaign USA, the University’s
first comprehensive fund-raising
campaign for USA programs,
faculty, students and
construction. Campaign USA
was launched in March 2006
and, to date, has raised $76.3
million. Led by Jim Yance, the
Campaign USA Leadership
team is comprised of local civic,
business and national leaders,
many of whom are alumni.
Campaign USA will enrich
all aspects of USA, from its
academic colleges and schools to
its hospitals, athletic programs,
libraries and campuses.
For information on
Campaign USA, visit
www.campaignusaleadership.com
or call (251) 460-7032.
Thursday, February 5, 2009

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the African-American Student Association will host the annual Black History Month Soul Food Luncheon at noon in the Student Center Ballroom. Admission is $8, and the event is open to the public. Seating is limited. For more information, call Dr. Carl Cunningham at (251) 460-6895.

Friday, February 6, 2009

The USA Online Learning Lab will hold a Weekly OLL Workshop (WOW!) designed to teach faculty to create Web sites using Dreamweaver. “Developing Instructional Web Sites Using Dreamweaver” will be held from 10 a.m.-noon in UCOM 3302. To sign up for the workshop, contact Gail McLean at (251) 380-2861, or e-mail gmclean@usouthal.edu.

Saturday, February 7, 2009

USA Baldwin County will host Rape Aggression Defense Training, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at the University’s Baldwin County Classroom Complex, located at the corner of St. James and Summit streets in downtown Fairhope. It is a comprehensive women’s only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, and then progresses on to the basics of hands-on defense training, addressing threats from both strangers and acquaintances. The course includes lecture, discussion and self-defense techniques suitable for women of all ages and abilities. In order to receive the certificate of completion, participants must attend the full day. The certificate allows the re-taking of the course at any time and location for free. Cost is $25 for the public and $15 for USA students with proof of enrollment. Due to limited space, reservations are required. Instructor Dr. Phillip Norrell, assistant professor in health, physical education and leisure studies, is also a black belt in martial arts and a certified R.A.D. trainer. For reservations or information, call (251) 928-8133, or e-mail USABC@usouthal.edu.

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Billy McLaughlin, an internationally-recognized acoustic guitarist, composer and producer, will perform at 7 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center. Two free tickets per USA I.D. will be available for faculty, staff and students in the Jaguar Productions Office, Student Center, Room 108. On Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom, there will be a screening of the documentary “Changing Keys: Billy McLaughlin and the Mysteries of Dystonia,” outlining how McLaughlin overcame an incurable muscular disorder to continue performing. McLaughlin and the film’s director and producer, Suzanne Jurva, will be available for questions and answers after the film. For more information, call Jaguar Productions at (251) 460-7144 or visit www.southalabama.edu/jaguarproductions.

Monday, February 16, 2009

The USA Study Abroad Fair, sponsored by the Office of International Education, will be held in the breezeway between the Student Center and the main entrance to the cafeteria from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For additional information, call Elizabeth Calhoun or Lillie Samuels at (251) 460-7053, e-mail ecalhoun@usouthal.edu or visit www.educationabroadfairs.info.

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Academic computing will present “Banner General Navigation,” a class in basic Banner interface and essential functions, from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and “Introduction to Banner Reports” from 2-4 p.m. in the seminar room at the Computer Services Center. For additional information, call academic computing at (251) 460-6161, e-mail questions to seminars@usouthal.edu, or register for a class online by going to www.southalabama.edu/cscworkshops.html.

Dr. Robert Holm, a professor in the department of music, will present a faculty piano recital featuring “Late Beethoven Sonatas and the Fugue” at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the John W Laidlaw Performing Arts Center. Tickets, which will be sold only at the door, will be $5 and $3. For information about special accommodations, call the Music Events Office at (251) 460-7116, the department of music at (251) 460-6136, or visit www.usouthal.edu/music.