The Ole Miss Hand Band, founded in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, includes students from a variety of majors who perform at churches, athletic events and graduation ceremonies.

The University of Mississippi is home to a number of bands that offer audiences a wide range of instrumental music. One UM band performs not only for those who can hear, but also for the hearing impaired.

Instead of playing drums or trumpets, members of the Ole Miss Hand Band uniquely express music with their hands by signing lyrics.

"The overall goal is to show people the beauty of sign language," said Rebecca Lowe, who has served as faculty adviser of the hand band since January 2002.

The group has performed in churches across northeast Mississippi, at Ole Miss football games and at graduation ceremonies for the School of Applied Sciences. One of the band’s major accomplishments was its performance for 13,000 attendees at the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association National Convention, Lowe said.

Vanessa Brasher, a third-year psychology major from Banner, serves as the group’s manager. She joined the band after hearing about it from Lowe, who was her work-study supervisor during her freshman year.

"Signing is like dancing with your hands," Brasher said. "I like to have another means of expressing the song other than singing."

Originally founded within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, the band is composed of about 20 students from a range of majors.

Heather Sneed, a senior communication sciences and disorders major from Chattanooga, Tenn., has been a member since her sophomore year. Besides improving

continued on Page 3
In a recent ceremony at The University of Mississippi, officials unveiled a portrait of the couple who generously made possible the renovation of Lenoir Hall into a permanent home for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Alumni John (BA 70) and Lenoir (BA 73) Stanley of Corinth were in attendance, along with a gathering of their family and friends, when Chancellor Robert Khayat and FCS Chair Teresa Carithers unveiled the Stanleys' portrait in the building's foyer.

"The Stanleys have continued to be strong supporters of our students and faculty," Carithers said. "The portrait provides our students with a personal connection to those who helped provide resources to enrich their academic careers. It is always very thrilling to be with them because they express such sincere admiration for the courses we teach. We have been truly blessed."

John Stanley and the couple's children, Clayton and Lamar, made the renovation gift in Lenoir's honor.

Stanley said the plaque outside the building describes their motivation. It reads: "To the honor of Lenoir Wadlington Stanley, whose family reaped the benefits and pleasures of her home economics degree and whose husband shares her great admiration for this department of the School of Applied Sciences."

Following renovation to convert the former Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house into a suitable academic building, Lenoir Hall opened in 2003 as home to FCS. Known as the Department of Home Economics until 1996, FCS was renamed and refocused to meet the needs of changing lifestyles and demands of the information age, while maintaining the structural principles on which it was founded.

FCS boasts an enrollment of nearly 400 students, 250 of whom are hospitality management majors.

Graduates of the program go into a diverse range of careers, including resort management, hotel management, restaurant ownership and event planning.

For more information, visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/fcs.
Weighing in on Obesity
LSU professor discusses research on overweight children

A lecture on childhood obesity turned into a demonstration of effective exercise practices earlier this fall as an LSU research professor urged students and faculty to dance, stretch and move around.

The free, public lecture by Melinda Sothern was titled "Safe and Effective Exercise for Overweight Children" and was part of the annual speakers tour of the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine, hosted this year by UM.

Children who struggle with weight issues should move more by walking, playing outdoors or dancing, Sothern said, asking the audience to join her in a short dance routine.

"Dancing promotes improvement of weight status and may be used in the prevention of pediatric diabetes," she said. "Plus, it's fun!"

Parents can encourage children to be more active by allowing them to play outside before doing homework, rearranging furniture to create areas for movement and creating short-term achievement goals, Sothern said, citing just a few examples.

Mark Loftin, chair of UM's Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, said Sothern is one of his former students and is considered to be a leading researcher on childhood obesity.

"Dr. Sothern is on the cutting edge of research regarding childhood-obesity issues. She also is excellent in applying her research to parents and teachers," he said.

Sothern is director of the Pediatric Obesity Clinical Research Section at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She directs the Prevention of Childhood Obesity Laboratory at the LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. Her research has been widely published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and recently appeared in The Handbook of Pediatric Obesity: Clinical Management (Taylor and Francis, 2006), a scientific textbook.

Sothern is the principal investigator for two National Institutes of Health studies and is a co-investigator in a six-year NIH-sponsored study on increasing physical activity in adolescent girls. She is also involved in several other nationwide health studies sponsored by NIH.

She is considered a national spokesperson for overweight youth and has been featured extensively in national and international television, radio and print media. She has made appearances on "Good Morning, America," "The Today Show," "48 Hours," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," the CNN international channel, Fox News Network, Nickelodeon and Discovery Channel and has been featured in USA Today, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, National Geographic, Parents, Parenting, Better Homes and Gardens and Prevention.

Sothern leads her field in establishing standardized guidelines for prescribing exercise for children with increasing levels of obesity. She is known best for her work in promoting active play as a means of preventing and treating childhood obesity.

She has been a member of the American College of Sports Medicine for more than 15 years, is a fellow and council member of The Obesity Society and is co-founder of its Pediatric Obesity Interest Group.

Discounts the Time, continued from Page 1

her signing, Sneed said the experience has allowed her to meet new friends.

"A special bond is created between all the girls, and it's really fun to work together," she said. "I also really enjoy the performance aspect of it."

While Sneed's favorite performances are signing pre-game songs at Ole Miss football games, she also enjoys performing in church services because of signing's unique way of demonstrating lyrics.

"I think it's great that you can express the gospel through signing, which is a less common avenue," she said.

Whether at football games or in churches, the group's performances have helped increase people's awareness of sign language as a whole, Brasher said.

"We have many deaf people who struggle through life because few people know how to sign," she said.

Learning to sign can be great experience for work in ministry or assistance, especially in hospital settings involving hearing-impaired patients, she said.

The hand band is open to all students. For more information, contact Lowe at UM's Speech and Hearing Center at 662-915-7271.
Student of the Year
Social work undergrad named top in state

UM senior Jennifer D. Johnson of Gulfport has been selected as the Mississippi Social Work Student of the Year by the Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Johnson said she was surprised by the honor and plans to continue her efforts to further the field of social work in Mississippi.

"I was so shocked to receive the award because all of the students nominated were so deserving," Johnson said. "I felt honored to be chosen, and it is something I will always cherish.

Johnson's selection was based on her exemplary performance in the Riverside Place After-School Program, said Susan C. Allen, associate professor of social work. The service-learning project was provided by students in cooperation with the Oxford Housing Authority and the families who live at Riverside. Students in the program planned and implemented an enrichment program for children.

"The quality of her work surpassed any group assessment and evaluation I have seen in the 15 years I have been teaching this class and has the potential to contribute to knowledge and skill building of new social workers," said Allen.

"I look forward to her continued contributions to the profession of social work and expect that we will hear her name often in the future."

Each year, the state NASW chapter recognizes exemplars in the field, including a student nominated from the state's social work programs. Johnson is now eligible for consideration among students from across the United States for the honor of National Social Work Student of the Year.

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Scaring kids silly is a big success for 18th annual haunted trail

When fall colors change and pumpkins-for-sale signs hint Halloween is just around the corner, that can mean only one thing for UM students majoring in park and recreation management.

For the 18th consecutive year, park and recreation management students hosted a haunted trail at Oxford's Avent Park in 2007. Designed, programmed and operated jointly with the Oxford Park Commission to offer enjoyment to the community, the event is also a fundraiser for the department's student organization, said Kim Beason, associate professor of park and recreation management.

"All proceeds this year [went] into the Park and Recreation Management Majors Association account to support student professional development and association events," Beason said. "In past years, we have donated all proceeds to Katrina Hurricane Relief, our Lance Duvall Park and Recreation Majors Scholarship Fund and other charitable causes."

The event, which has been called "a horrific success," draws as many as 1,200 visitors during its two-day period. Sounds of chainsaws and haunting music set the eerie atmosphere intended to frighten the anxious visitors who walk through the trail. Students dress up in scary costumes and re-enact scenes from popular horror flicks.

Organizing the trail furthers vocational knowledge for the students by giving them real-world programming experience and allowing them to apply what they have learned in the classroom, Beason said.

"This is a perfect example of programming as an applied science," he said. "Students must serve as cast members, perform public relations, conduct and develop risk-management plans and evaluate and coordinate the program with another organization."

Although scaring visitors can be amusing, some students find more thrill in guiding visitors through the haunted trail.

"As a guide, you get to see every scene and see what is going on," said Keith Gaskin, a junior park and recreation management major from Pittsboro. "I get to see the expressions of people, and that's really fun."
Making a Difference
Dietetics majors lead program for high-school students in Batesville

Students studying dietetics at The University of Mississippi recently got hands-on experience and influenced the lives of high-school students thanks to a $7,500 grant from the Mississippi chapter of the March of Dimes.

Last fall, students from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences held the New Futures program at South Panola High School in Batesville. Topics discussed included the risk factors for premature labor, the dangers of poor nutrition during pregnancy and the importance of setting goals for continuing education, said Teresa Carithers, chair of the department and principal investigator for the grant.

Dietetics students who received scholarships to earn their Nutrition Data System certification provided analyses and educational support for the program.

Last spring, the students learned to use NDS software for interactive dietary data collection and nutrition calculations. The NDS database allows users to describe more than 150,000 foods and 6,000 different product names, and the software prompts the user to describe food intake in detail so the information can be used for dietary research. The dietetics students used the database system to explain the benefits of good nutrition to high-school students.

"Close to 50 South Panola students participated and received incentives and hopefully new knowledge that will help them build better futures," Carithers said.

Martha Lynn Johnson, who oversees grant programs at the high school, said the program is extremely successful in reaching students, many of whom do not know much about proper nutrition.

"It really raises their consciousness about what they are eating for the health of their baby and for themselves," she said. "They seem to listen better when they get the information from speakers outside the school district, and they really do learn."

Carithers said programs like this, which bring different educational institutions together to address a problem, offer a number of advantages.

"Collaborative community-based initiatives provide needed services to local organizations, give our students valuable hands-on experience and build potential relationships," she said.

UM graduate student Lacy Myrick of Kosciusko served as the project coordinator and Julian Gillian assisted with the academic goal-setting presentation. NDS scholarship participants from the department included Myrick and seniors Ashley Gruber of Birmingham, Ala., Sonya Hopson of Oxford, Wanda McKean of Oxford, Kin Pang of Senai, Malaysia, Shira Scott of Clarksdale and Katherine Sullivan of Diamond.
Influential professor continues to inspire

A professor who spent nearly four decades teaching criminology at Ole Miss is being honored with a scholarship in his name.

Remembered as a soft-spoken but eloquent teacher and a well-published scholar, Dr. C.B. Hopper, professor emeritus of sociology, was on the university faculty from 1957 until his retirement in 1993. In addition to sociology, he taught in the law enforcement and criminal justice programs in the Department of Political Science and in the master's degree program in criminal justice, serving as its graduate director for two years.

"Dr. Hopper and Mrs. Hopper have been wonderful friends of the school and the department," said School of Applied Sciences Dean Linda Chitwood. "We have depended upon Dr. Hopper's expertise and guidance as we have developed the criminal justice programs, and it is always a pleasure to hear his former students pay tribute to him as a mentor."

Former students, friends, fellow professors, professional colleagues and his family recently honored Hopper by establishing a scholarship in his name. The first C.B. Hopper Scholarship recipient will be announced next year.

The scholarship honors Hopper's contributions to Ole Miss and is a worthwhile investment in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, criminal justice and homeland security. Since the criminal justice program transitioned from the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Political Science into the School of Applied Sciences and the multidisciplinary Department of Legal Studies, the Richard Popernik Scholarship, the Robert Langley Scholarship and now the C.B. Hopper Scholarship have been funded.

"Scholarships funded through private donations allow our faculty to bring outstanding students into a variety of careers that are vital to the overall welfare and growth of our state and nation," Chitwood said.

Former students and admirers who wish to contribute to the Hopper scholarship can send a donation to The University of Mississippi Foundation. Please send checks, noting the C.B. Hopper Scholarship, to Christi Bland, stewardship coordinator, Memory House, P.O. Box 433, University, MS, 38677.

Law-enforcement alumni honored for service

Jim Greenlee, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, delivered the keynote address and was among UM alumni in law-enforcement careers honored at a spring 2007 banquet hosted by the Department of Legal Studies.

Greenlee told the more than 200 police officers, prosecutors, students and legal studies faculty in attendance that everyone should have a sense of urgency about their jobs, particularly those in the law-enforcement and judicial fields.

"Give it your all, no matter what it is, and you will never be bored," Greenlee said, listing some tips he has learned as a federal prosecutor. He added that it's important to learn as much as possible, take care of the people around you and have fun at what you do.

"To the graduates here, you are going to have so many challenges that you cannot predict, but there are truths that you can always go by," he said. "Continue to learn, and always apply what you've learned to your life."

Greenlee also praised the legal studies department for the recent addition of a Master of Criminal Justice degree program.

Linda Chitwood, dean of applied sciences, said that when she hired David McElreath as chair of legal studies two years ago, she could not have imagined the progress that would be made.

"I could not be more pleased and more proud of what is happening in legal studies," she said.

McElreath said that each of the more than 50 alumni and students honored at the recent banquet "without question has character, has integrity and is committed to service."

"It is a foundation that all of our honorees have in common and the reason that we take the time to honor them," he said.
New iPod device is ‘music’ to the ears of people who stutter

Compared with advancements in modern medicine during the past 70 years, there have been few new treatment options for people who stutter. That’s one reason a $50 digital device being developed by a University of Mississippi researcher is drawing attention.

Contrast that price to a typical digital speech device costing approximately $5,000, and it’s easy to see why Greg Snyder, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, may be on to something big. Snyder said his own experience as a person who stutters played an important role in his chosen path as a researcher and educator.

“There is an incredible amount of disinformation and poor theory in stuttering research and treatment,” Snyder said.

Snyder’s research has led him to develop a system that uses portable MP3 players instead of expensive and nearly invisible digital speech feedback prosthetic devices, and his work has drawn national attention.

Steve Zieke, a Minnesota resident who met Snyder at the National Stuttering Association annual conference in 2005, is impressed with the system. “It has been a very useful tool for me,” Zieke said. “I don’t use it all the time. In fact, as you can see, there are times when I am quite fluent, but there are also times that I am not so fluent, depending upon the circumstances. I have found Greg’s device to be very helpful at times when I am having difficulties.”

Snyder said that it has been known since the early 1950s that “delayed auditory feedback” enhances fluent speech in those who stutter.

“Because many believe — and still largely believe — that stuttering is a psychological problem, many professionals continue to believe that this speech feedback distacts people from their stuttering, thus enhancing fluent speech,” he said.

“Other professionals believe that the speech feedback slows down the rate of speech, thus enhancing fluent speech. Both of these premises are not easily supported with science. However, there is an emerging group of researchers who realize that speech feedback might work by altering the way the brain processes speech.”

Using this theory, researchers at East Carolina University developed the SpeechEasy, an in-the-ear feedback device. It picks up the speaker’s voice, alters the voice and then reintroduces the voice to the speaker. The device is about the size of a hearing aid, and it can cost up to $4,900.

From his research, Snyder has determined that speech initiation is a major part of stuttering. He also concluded that many people who stutter may only need an external source of speech initiation to address their problem. Those realizations, coupled with the then-emerging technology of hand-held digital music devices, led to his current line of research.

“I was awarded a faculty research project grant funded by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at UM, which allowed me to purchase 12 iPod Shuffles and send them to people who stutter around the country,” he said.

Forty percent of research participants found significant fluency enhancement while using the device; the other 40 percent found it effective but probably not enough to endure the nuisance of the constant vowel sounds.

“This device certainly will not cure stuttering or the problems of stuttering, but it may improve the quality of life for some people who stutter,” Snyder said.

Annual event offers lessons in caring for aging relatives

Valuable information about caring for aging family members was available at the sixth annual CARE Fair and Workshop held last spring at The University of Mississippi.

The CARE (Caring for Aging Relatives Effectively) Fair, designed to address a broad spectrum of aging and caregiving issues, featured more than 20 exhibitors. The booths provided resources for participants to learn about community-based aging services, legal services, behavioral and mental health services, assisted living, nutrition, safety, hospice, osteoporosis, retirement-living options, long-term care planning, living wills, Alzheimer’s support, Medicare and other issues facing the aging population.

“I started the CARE Fair and Workshop as a service to university faculty and staff after realizing the growing need for this type of information,” said Jo Ann O’Quin, professor of social work and organizer of the annual event. “It was clear that many of us had no clue where to start getting information about aging services, and as baby boomers grow older they want information about planning for aging themselves and especially for aging relatives.”

Ole Miss employs 1,198 baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964, many of whom may be caring for aging parents or will soon be retiring themselves.

In addition to the CARE Fair, a professional training workshop was held. The workshop featured Marion Dunn-Tutor, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services, who delivered the keynote address: “The State of Aging in the State.”

The 2007 CARE Fair and Workshop was sponsored by the UM Department of Social Work and the Institute for Geriatric Social Work at Boston University in conjunction with Azalea Gardens Retirement Community, North Mississippi Hospice of Oxford and the Mississippi Division of Aging and Adult Services. Plans are currently being made for the 2008 event.
Students honor outstanding faculty

Two UM professors have been honored for their work in the fields of childhood obesity and nutrition education by being named the 2007 outstanding faculty in the School of Applied Sciences.

Kathy Knight, associate professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Scott Owens, associate professor in the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, received Thomas A. Crowe Outstanding Faculty Awards last spring.

Owens joined the university faculty in 2002, while Knight has been teaching at Ole Miss since 1985, beginning in what was then called the home economics department.

Applied Sciences Dean Linda Chitwood said Owens and Knight are outstanding university citizens who deserve to be recognized for their dedication. "It is good to recognize the accomplishments of our faculty, particularly professors who have remained dedicated to research and students while serving as peer mentors and participating in university governance," she said.

Knight finds inspiration in her students. "My philosophy of teaching is that the students are why I am here — period," said Knight. "I am willing to do whatever it takes to help them learn as long as they are willing to work also."

She added that as a nutrition and foods teacher she teaches her own laboratories, which gives her an opportunity to learn more about her students. "The students tend to talk more while their hands are busy, and it helps me to get to know the students better," she said. "You would be surprised how many life crises and career questions can be solved while peeling carrots."

Owens, meanwhile, has garnered recognition for obesity-related research. During the past two years, his main scholarly focus has been the development and submission of National Institutes of Health grants for such research. Mark Loftin, chair of the health, exercise science and recreation management department, said that Owens' focus on obesity is one reason he is deserving of recognition.

"[Owens] has clearly demonstrated that he is on the cutting edge of applied research related to physical activity in children and youth at risk of being overweight," Loftin said. "This line of research is very important given that Mississippi leads the U.S. in childhood obesity."

This is the sixth year the school has awarded the Thomas A. Crowe Outstanding Faculty Awards, named in honor of the school's first dean. Honorees must be full-time professors engaged in teaching, scholarship and professional service, with meritorious accomplishments in one or more of these areas. To be considered for the award, faculty members must be nominated by a peer, student or alumnus in a letter clearly stating the meritorious achievement of the nominee.

2007 Outstanding Alumnus has 'servant heart' for patients

Earlier this year, School of Applied Sciences alumnus Tommie L. Robinson Jr. was awarded the 2007 Thomas A. Crowe Outstanding Alumnus Award for his professional leadership and service achievements.

From the beginning, Robinson has used his career to positively impact others. He initiated a doctoral program in speech-language pathology at Howard University while working at Children's National Medical Center. He later served as director of the Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders there and was given a faculty appointment in pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He currently holds adjunct positions at Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia.

Robinson has served on numerous boards and national organizations and is currently the chief administrator of one of the largest full-time clinical facilities serving the needs of bilingual children with communication disorders in Washington, D.C. He has authored or co-authored 12 peer-reviewed publications and received an award from the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association for an outstanding publication in its journal in 2000. He also has given more than 75 regional and national presentations.

"He is a professional of stature and eminence with a servant heart for his patients and his profession," said Patricia Cole, a UM alumnus and American Speech Hearing Association fellow. "Those who study with him, work with him and collaborate with him are richer for the experience."
Donors

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the School of Applied Sciences during 2007. The following list reflects gifts that were made between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007. Every effort was made to present an accurate reflection of our donors. Please contact Ted Smith, associate director of university development, at 662-915-5944 if you have any questions.

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New Name, New Leader
Communication Sciences and Disorders embraces change

The new year marked new beginnings for the department formerly known as communicative disorders as a national search began to find a chair for the newly named department.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders received its new name in fall 2007 after approval from the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

Interim Chair Lennette Ivy, who took over for Carolyn Higdon earlier this year, said the new name reflects the broad science base of the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

"Our students acquire knowledge in the diagnosis and remediation of various communication disorders, and this knowledge is grounded in scientific method and in evidence-based, empirical research," Ivy said. "In addition, the new name better reflects the mission of the department's commitment to excellence in academic study, clinical training, creative research, service learning and community outreach."

School of Applied Sciences Dean Linda Chitwood said the new name is the prevailing standard for academic departments accredited by the American Speech and Hearing Association.

She added the school hopes to hire a permanent chair for the department by July 1.

"We are currently conducting a national search to find the best person to help this department continue the wonderful progress it has made over the last few years," Chitwood said. "We need a person who is experienced in academia as a department chair or program director, who has an established record of scholarship and grants, has the ability to mentor our young and highly talented tenure-track faculty and can help the department develop ties with the professional and university communities."

Essentially, the goal is to continue the department's current progress, which has included a record number of graduate students, new grants and continued operation of the Speech and Hearing Clinic on campus.

Ivy said the primary goal for the entire department is to make a difference in the region and the state.

"There is such a great need to improve the reading and writing skills of our school-aged children," she said.
Upcoming events

February 27, 2008
The School of Applied Sciences Career Fair, Turner Center gym. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

March 26-28, 2008
Mississippi Dietetic Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition, Oxford Conference Center. All alumni are invited to the Alumni and Student Breakfast and Scientific Presentation at 7:30 a.m. March 27 with the presentation beginning at 8:30 a.m.

March 26-28, 2008
National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi Chapter Annual Conference, Natchez Convention Center.

March 27-29, 2008
Mississippi Speech and Hearing Association Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel, Jackson.

March 29, 2008
Third annual Rebel Man Sprint Triathlon hosted by the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, Turner Center swimming pool. 8 a.m.

April 28, 2008
Department of Legal Studies Annual Awards Banquet, Oxford. Location and time TBA.

For additional information, contact Sheila Dossett, 662-915-7375 or sdossett@olemiss.edu.

Assisting the dean

Marie Barnard, the new assistant dean in the School of Applied Sciences, came to Ole Miss from the University of Tennessee where she worked for 12 years on a variety of research projects.

Barnard, who holds bachelor’s degrees in law and society and psychology from American University in Washington, D.C., and a master’s degree in epidemiology from the University of Tennessee, focuses her research on behavioral health, maternal/child health and domestic violence.

In the dean’s office she will focus on assisting faculty in developing grants and research projects.

Originally from Philadelphia, she is married to Robert Barnard, an associate professor in philosophy and religion, and the couple has two sons.

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