



the university of mississippi

school of applied sciences

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inside



A Decade of Growth



Q&A with Gloria Kellum

During Gloria Kellum's 42-year tenure at the University of Mississippi, the former vice chancellor and professor of communication sciences and disorders has observed the growth and success of the School of Applied Sciences since its establishment in 2001. She shares her observations here.

How has the School of Applied Sciences impacted UM?

The school brought together departments with the common mission of service to others, excellence in teaching and research discovery. When universities realign academic units with common interests, it can be very positive for students and faculty because of cross-discipline teaching and research. The students broaden their perspectives of their own professions and the other human-service professions. The graduates of the service-based departments are very employable.

What does the future hold for the school?

The school has developed a solid academic and research foundation and will continue to grow with opportunities for the faculty and students to work across disciplines. Faculty [members] are committed to excellence in their disciplines, for their students, in research and in service to others. As the school continues to expand, we must all work to develop the financial resources for the school by obtaining more private support and grants and contracts. There is significant growth potential for the School of Applied Sciences as it makes an important contribution to Mississippi by educating much-needed human-services professionals.

Where Human Sciences and Service Intersect:

A History of the School of Applied Sciences

By Tom Speed



With a common theme of service and professional career training, a new school was founded at the University of Mississippi in 2001. It was the first school to be founded at Ole Miss since the School of Accountancy in 1979, and it was one of the first of its kind in the nation. After starting with just a few hundred students, the School of Applied Sciences is now the fastest growing school and the third largest school at the university.

The concept was the brainchild of Provost Emerita Carolyn Staton, who recognized the need to revitalize a handful of academic departments. Staton realized that at least five programs in three different schools had diverged from the core mission of their respective schools. They had outgrown their

roots and were not receiving the attention needed to fulfill their potential.

One of them was the Department of Social Work, housed in the College of Liberal Arts. Years earlier, it had branched out from sociology. Similarly, communicative disorders was an offshoot of speech.

In the School of Education, exercise science had diverged from its roots as a component of physical education, while consumer science had evolved from home economics. With the state no longer certifying teachers in those fields, the departments had moved beyond their original mission.

Over in the School of Law, there were classes designed to train paralegals, but few students knew about them. Despite its popularity, criminal justice was just an emphasis area.

Each discipline had developed its own brand of education and training,

each with its own missions and goals.

“Those programs were real hidden jewels,” said Linda Chitwood, former dean of the School of Applied Sciences.

“The one thing they had in common [was] they were doing some kind of professional, undergraduate career training,” Staton said.

Staton thought that pooling those departments together could foster renewed focus and more attention. She approached each of the department chairs with the idea of creating a new school. At first, her idea was met with hesitation.

“I don’t think there was a one of them that embraced it at first,” she said. “They were all very skittish. It was up to them whether they wanted to do it.”

In time, the department chairs began to see the commonalities and how they could benefit from realignment.

“By putting them in their own school, they were able to have the full, undivided attention of the dean,” Staton said.

From the outset, it was important to identify a shared goal.

“We didn’t want it to be a catchall,” said Staton. “It had to make sense. The idea was to bring some synergy with departments that had some kind of career mission.”

The role of service was identified as a core commonality too.

“When you look at the whole conglomerate of departments, you’re looking at faculty [members] who are dedicated to providing human services,” said Gloria Kellum, former vice chancellor for university relations and professor of communication sciences and disorders.

Nearly 18 months later, the new school was officially born. It was an innovative concept but not entirely unprecedented. A few other schools around the country had

similarly grouped departments under one banner.

“We looked across the nation at where these kinds of departments were located within other universities,” Chitwood said. “The only structure we found that was similar was a College of Health and Human Services at a number of universities.”

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—Provost Emerita
Carolyn Staton

Over the course of 10 years, the school has evolved and thrived. Birthed by Staton’s vision and nurtured by Chitwood’s aggressive advocacy, the school gradually molded into a more perfect form.

Organizational changes took place to ensure the programs were keeping pace with the needs of the student body and the best practices within the profession. Some programs were phased out, while new programs were initiated. For example, the Department of Legal Studies was formed in 2002 to bring together the criminal justice and paralegal studies programs under one department.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences was reconfigured too.

“The profession was going away from the FCS model,” Chitwood said. “So we worked with the School of Business to move merchandising over there because it was very

similar to marketing, and we built separate majors in dietetics and nutrition and hospitality management.”

In 2008, the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies was established, and in 2010, the National Food Service Management Institute joined the school.

The school also set about obtaining accreditation for each discipline. Not every discipline has an accrediting body, but, for those that do, ensuring that the curriculum prepares students to earn the associated certification or license is at the core of the mission.

“The goal is to have every program that can be accredited to be accredited,” said Chitwood. “We look at the guidelines and tweak the curriculum to meet those guidelines.”

With more than 2,600 students enrolled in the school, an expanding list of graduate programs, and a talented and growing faculty, it’s easy to conclude that the school has been a great success story. And it’s no surprise that students continue to flock to the school’s programs. Part of the growth has been the establishment of master’s degree programs in social work, criminal justice, and food and nutrition services, all of which started in 2008. Today, the school awards eight undergraduate degrees, as well as graduate degrees in every department, including a Ph.D. in health and kinesiology.

But when it comes to measuring the success of the school, the school’s former dean said it’s all about the students.

“It’s the success of the graduates,” Chitwood said. “We have a very good record of how many students pass certification exams and move on to become successful professionals. These people integrate themselves into the communities and become leaders. We have a very good foundation.” ■

School of Applied Sciences Timeline

A look through the years



2001

2001

June: The University of Mississippi announces the creation of the School of Applied Sciences and Professional Studies.

July: The School of Applied Sciences and Professional Studies becomes official, housing five existing UM departments: Communicative Disorders, Court Reporting, Family and Consumer Sciences, Social Work, and Health, Exercise Science and Leisure Management. Tom Crowe is appointed as the first interim dean of the school. The school comprises 725 undergraduate and 58 graduate students.

2002

2002

July: Tom Crowe retires, and Linda Chitwood is named dean. The school also hires Jim Stafford as associate dean and three new department chairs.

July: The Department of Legal Studies is formed and includes programs in court reporting, paralegal studies and criminal justice.

July: Applied Sciences has nearly \$600,000 in grants and sponsored projects.

August: The school begins offering two new degree programs: Bachelor of Paralegal Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

2003

2003

March: A partnership with Hinds Community College is developed to transfer the court reporting program to Hinds effective fall 2003.

April: The dean and seven students are inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and four students receive prestigious Taylor Medals at the Honors Day Convocation.

May: The school graduates 264 students at commencement, including the first student to earn a B.S. in Criminal Justice and the first student to earn the Bachelor of Paralegal Studies at Ole Miss.

July: The Center for Health Promotion and Health Behavior is founded.

September: The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences returns to Lenoir Hall, which was renovated thanks to a generous donation from the Stanleys and is named in honor of Lenoir Stanley.

December: UM-Tupelo and UM-DeSoto Center add daytime courses for credit toward a bachelor's degree in social work and criminal justice.

2004

2004

April: Maggie Haynes, a senior park and recreation management major, is the first recipient of the Park and Recreation Management Endowment Scholarship.

September: The school experiences double-digit enrollment, growing by 25.4 percent.

September: Chester Quarles, professor of criminal justice, and Jeffrey Hallam, associate professor of health promotion, become the first recipients of the Thomas A. Crowe Outstanding Faculty Award, given by the UM School of Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter.

2005

2005

April: The curriculum for the B.S. in Criminal Justice is substantially revised to offer three emphasis areas (corrections, homeland security and law enforcement).

May: Robert T. Warren, a criminal justice major from Holly Springs, Miss., receives the first C.B. Hopper Award for Outstanding Legal Studies Student of the Year.

November: The Candice O. Walker Memorial Scholarship is established by the Theta Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in honor of chapter member Candice O. Walker, a communicative disorders major who was killed in a car accident in November 2004.

2006

2006

May: Gloria McGregor, dean's assistant, is declared staff winner of the 12th annual Frist Student Service Award.

July: The bachelor's program in dietetics and nutrition gains full accreditation.

August: The Department of Social Work moves into the newly renovated Longstreet Hall.

September: The Department of Communicative Disorders celebrates its 40th anniversary.

November: A Hearin Support Foundation grant funds faculty support and enrichment opportunities.

2007

January: The Department of Legal Studies moves into the renovated Odom Hall.

February: First legal studies scholarship endowment honors late university police chief Richard Popernik.

February: The first Thomas Crowe Alumnus Award is awarded to Tommie Robinson, an alumnus of the Department of Communicative Disorders.

August: The Family and Consumer Sciences degree is split into two new degrees—the B.S. in Dietetics and Nutrition and the B.S. in Hospitality Management.

August: Marie Barnard is hired as the first assistant dean for the School of Applied Sciences.

2009

April: The first School of Applied Sciences Student Merit Award is awarded to Blair Stevens Harris, a dietetics and nutrition major.

May: Applied Sciences adopts a core curriculum as a means to ensure all students in the school have a similar academic core foundation.

May: The M.S. in exercise science is split into two different emphasis areas—exercise physiology and neuromechanics.

July: Teresa Carithers is appointed associate dean of Applied Sciences.

August: The Department of Social Work partners with the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children's Services, to offer the M.S.W. program to child welfare employees in Mississippi.

September: The Department of Family and Consumer Studies is renamed the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management.

September: The Ph.D. in exercise science is renamed the Ph.D. in health and kinesiology.

2008

January: The Center for Health Promotion and Health Behavior is renamed the Center for Health Behavior Research.

August: Graduate programs in food and nutrition services, social work and criminal justice are added.

August: The Department of Communicative Disorders is renamed the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to reflect the evidence-based foundations of the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

September: Applied Sciences hosts a panel discussion on "National Health Care Reform: Moving from Treatment to Prevention" as part of the UM presidential debate series.

October: The Center for Intelligence and Security Studies is founded, and the minor in intelligence and security studies is approved.

2010

March: The School of Applied Sciences adopts an honor code developed by students.

March: The National Food Service Management Institute joins the School of Applied Sciences.

May: CSD receives the UM Award for Excellence in Promoting Inclusiveness in Graduate Education.

2011

January: School of Applied Sciences faculty and students launch a wellness program for employees at GE Aviation plant in Batesville, Miss.

May: The school graduates 454 students.

June: Linda Chitwood steps down as dean.

July: Carol Boyd is named interim dean of the School of Applied Sciences.

August: The school comprises 2,245 undergraduate and 220 graduate students.

2012

January: A minor in legal studies is approved.

February: Lenoir Dining Hall reopens after extensive renovations to the kitchen and dining room, thanks to the Shirley family.



2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

Applied Sciences' Advocates

Each succeeding dean raises bar for school

By Tom Speed



When the School of Applied Sciences was founded at the University of Mississippi, one of the first orders of business was to find someone to run it.

In selecting an interim dean, Provost Emerita Carolyn Staton chose Tom Crowe, who was then chair of the Department of Communicative Disorders and senior administrator of the founding five departments. His tenure would provide the momentum needed to establish the school before choosing a permanent dean, but creating a new school was an arduous task.

"There are issues you've never dealt with, and you don't have a predecessor," Staton said.

One of Crowe's first acts as interim dean was to select Linda Chitwood, then chair of the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, to be associate dean.

After Crowe served one year, Chitwood was named interim dean while a search committee was assigned to find a permanent dean. A national search determined

Chitwood was the person for the job. She immediately became a fierce advocate for the new school.

"Linda would advocate very, very aggressively for more money for her departments, more faculty, more space, and she was very effective," Staton said. "That really benefited those departments to have someone say, 'These are my five children, and they need a slice of the pie.'"

In addition to battling for resources, Chitwood worked hard to improve the departments, to make them more effective and more aligned with the goals of the school.

"That was one of our challenges, to take five very different departments and bond them together," Chitwood said. "Our common theme is that we are about improving communities, families, groups and individuals."

Chitwood was able to make changes within the departments themselves to make them healthier, Staton said.

"Family and Consumer Sciences had four or five emphases. She looked at it and studied and said, 'We can do a lot better if we can tighten up the focus.' When they did that, that department grew by leaps and bounds."

Chitwood went on to serve as dean for the next eight years. Throughout that time she sought to refine the school's success. One of those successes is the encouragement of collaboration among the departments.

"We're getting better and better about tying our departments together and seeing how they can work together on different projects," she said.

One project is working with communities in Mound Bayou. Another is an ongoing effort in Belize that sends faculty and students from each of the departments to serve a community there.

"They are helping to build roads and improve their schools," Chitwood said. "We've been doing speech testing down there. We are doing things on safety and policing. So that's been a project that has helped pull the school together and let everybody see how the professions in our school can work as teams. It's been a good experience."

When Chitwood stepped down in 2011, Carol Boyd was named interim dean. She'd been with the school since 2004 as chair of the Department of Social Work. Though she has served as interim dean for just a



few short months, she is already meeting the challenges head-on. She points to the phenomenal growth of the school as both an attribute and a challenge.

“People like our programs,” Boyd said. “They stand a better chance of getting a job, and they’re doing something they like. But needing more resources is the most significant challenge, to have enough funds to hire faculty to keep up with the growth.”

That challenge will fall to the next dean. A search committee is already seeking the person who will take that mantle, a process overseen by Provost Morris Stocks.

“We are looking for a leader who can

move [the school] to the next direction,” Stocks said. “The primary goal would be to find someone who can continue to pull disparate departments together with a common mission, build alumni support and strengthen the teaching and research mission.”

Staton said she believes there’s no limit to the kind of programs that can be added into what the school has now.

“So I would hope they have a dean who has a vision of how to grow those things and continues to work with the faculty to try to get collaboration and research money for them,” she said.

Charged with maintaining the momen-

tum created over the last 10 years while seeking new ways to strengthen the mission, the new dean will take over a school with a legacy of success and great promise.

“It’s very important to get the right leadership there,” said Gloria Kellum, former vice chancellor for university relations and professor of communication sciences and disorders. “We’ve had excellent leadership in that school, and we need to continue that. It needs to be somebody who understands how to manage growth. [The school] has become an important part of the university’s identity: that we are here to help train people and educate people to serve others.” ■

School of Applied Sciences Faculty and Staff, Fall 2011





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Reaching Out

School's specialized centers provide services near and far

From providing speech-language-hearing services to community members in North Mississippi to influencing national policy on child nutrition, the four specialized units within the School of Applied Sciences continue to positively affect lives on a local and nationwide level.

Center for Intelligence and Security Studies

Founded in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies (CISS) prepares students in the competitive intelligence and security studies minor for entry-level positions in the U.S. intelligence field and conducts research in intelligence analytics.

"CISS' unique approach educates students with core competencies in areas of interest to the intelligence community, such as intensive Chinese and computer science," said Carl Jensen, CISS director.

The center was recently featured in the *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence* and has been recognized by the federal government as a center

of academic excellence, Jensen said.

Center for Health Behavior Research

The Center for Health Behavior Research, within the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management, conducts innovative research in health behavior and provides lifestyle programs for local and statewide communities.

Center researchers are looking at obesity and the health risk of children in the Mississippi Delta. Another project is focusing on understanding the criteria behind locations of schools in Mississippi communities.

"The outcome will inform state-level policy on the location of new schools and access by multiple modes of transportation — this includes cars, buses, bicycles and walking," said Jeffrey Hallam, professor, center director and health promotion program coordinator.

Speech and Hearing Center

The UM Speech and Hearing Center, housed within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has provided high-quality speech-language-hearing ser-

vices and excellent clinical education for students since 1966. Under the supervision of licensed, certified speech-language pathologists, graduate students in the department provide assessment and therapy services for a variety of disorders in children and adults, including consultation, evaluation, intervention and hearing aid sales and services.

National Food Service Management Institute

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) is the only federally funded national center with a focus on applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs.

"NFSMI is very unique in that it operates with a timeless vision in a dynamic and changing environment, providing child nutrition professionals throughout the U.S. and its territories essential, up-to-date, research-based information and training," said Katie Wilson, NFSMI executive director.

NFSMI provides information and services to promote continuous improvement of child nutrition programs. ■