

The Applied Approach

Spring 2004 Vol. 2 No. 1 A newsletter for the School of Applied Sciences

In this Issue

Message from the Dean
3

Communicative disorders
professor named president
of ASHA
4

DeSoto Center adds day
classes in social work and
criminal justice
5

Phi Kappa Phi initiates
6

Dietetics professor wins
national award
7

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Restaurant provides a future—and a home for family and consumer sciences graduates

When Tori Puckett graduated from The University of Mississippi in 1996, she did not have a set career goal in mind. Like most recent graduates, Tori said she was still searching for her future when she left Ole Miss.

"Like many 20-somethings, I really didn't know where my future was heading. I just knew I wanted a fulfilling career I would love to do everyday. That's hard for anyone to find," she said.

Tori's husband, Jason, agreed: "I travelled widely after graduating in 1995, and was still contemplating my future plans. I didn't want to be one of those people who just had a job. No, I wanted a career I could care about."

In 2001, the couple's future found them. Jason, a home economics major, and Tori, a family and consumer sciences graduate, decided to put their educational and professional experience to good use with the purchase of Panini's/Oxford Catering Company.

Continued on Page 2



Tori and Jason Puckett

"It was a tough decision, but it is one that we've never regretted," Jason said.

After 2-1/2 years in business, the couple said they've had their ups and downs, and general first-time owners mishaps, but know they made the right decision to invest in Panini's.

"Business is steady and constant," Tori said. "We have a regular client base that includes many people from the Oxford community and many dedicated Ole Miss alumni."

Jason nodded his agreement. "Ole Miss as a whole has been really supportive of Panini's, and we really appreciate the business and support."

"Not only did we receive a quality education at Ole Miss, but now that we've graduated and are trying our best to stay afloat and continue to be successful, the University has been extremely helpful and supportive. It's one of the reasons why we love Oxford and decided to make this town our home," he said.

In addition to catering luncheons and cocktail parties, preparing special meals for home football games and spring's Red-Blue Weekend, Panini's

provides catering services for several Oxford businesses, including Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi.

Sarah Hollis, director of marketing and physicians' services for Baptist-North Mississippi, described Panini's service as "second-to-none."

"I've had nothing but great things from Panini's, and Tori and Jason are the

'Ole Miss as a whole has been really supportive of Panini's, and we really appreciate the business and support.'

best to work with when planning events. They cater meals for our monthly Ladies Luncheons, and everyone simply raves about the service and food."



Tori and Jason Puckett

Mark your calendars now!

Applied Sciences Weekend

September 24-26, 2004

Weekend activities include

- Continuing education courses for communicative disorders, social work, park and recreation management, and many others.
- Time to visit with classmates, friends, and former professors
- A lunch in honor of Applied Sciences Order members
- Applied Sciences Chapter meeting

Other fun and educational events are being planned. Look for more information in a brochure to be mailed this summer, or you can check the School of Applied Sciences Web site for more information as the date draws near: www.olemiss.edu/depts/applied_sciences. A block of rooms is available at The Inn at Ole Miss by calling 888-486-7666. Call Sheila Dossett for additional information at (662) 915-7375, or e-mail her at sdossett@olemiss.edu.



Letter from the dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Fall 2003 proved to be an outstanding semester for the School of Applied Sciences, and spring 2004 is proving to be equally amazing, too.

This January, Adjunct Associate Professor of Communicative Disorders Larry Higdon was named 2004 president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Kimberly Kraft, a doctoral candidate in exercise physiology, began her first full semester as coordinator of alcohol and drug education at Ole Miss; and the Department of Communicative Disorders earned an eight-year accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing

Association.

We are pleased to welcome Assistant Professor of Park and Recreation Management Matt Zuefle, Associate Professors of Social Work Susan Allen and Kristi O'Dell, and Assistant Professors of Family and Consumer Sciences David Kwun and Yunhee Chang to the applied sciences family.

The School of Applied Sciences offers professional preparation programs that integrate academic study, clinical training, creative research, service learning, and community outreach. We



Linda Chitwood

develop future leaders whose professional endeavors will improve health and well-being. Our faculty are professors, mentors, and scholars who engage in basic and applied research, and provide professional services to constituents throughout the state and nation.

I pledge to you that the faculty and staff will continue to do everything possible to make you proud of the School of Applied Sciences. I trust that you will do your best to support us in our efforts.

Have a great year, and we look forward to seeing you on September 24 for the next Applied Sciences Weekend.

Sincerely,

Linda Chitwood, Dean

Letter from the Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter president and president-elect

It is indeed an honor to serve as president and president-elect of the Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter at Ole Miss. It seems like only yesterday we were spending our time in the Grove, the library, the Lyceum—learning as much as possible and preparing for our futures. Thanks, Ole Miss, for preparing us well!

Now it is our time to give back. As officers of the Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter, we are fortunate to have some of the finest people and minds working for the School of Applied Sciences. Dean Linda Chitwood is an outstanding Ole Miss administrator who is dedicated to the school's continued growth and development. Sheila Dossett, our advancement associate, works hard coordinating alumni activities and development projects.

We need your help, too. One of our



Liz Triplett Walker



Ginger Brown

goals is to increase membership in the Applied Sciences Order. Many faculty, board members, and alumni have committed to this project. A minimum gift of \$5,000, payable in either a lump sum or installments over a period of not more than 10 years, satisfies requirements for membership. Another goal is to establish an endowment to help increase faculty salaries that are well below the regional average.

Remember, every gift to the School of Applied Sciences is an investment in people. Private gifts allow the University to achieve higher levels of education excellence. We urge you, our alumni and friends, to support us in this effort. If you need more information on joining the Applied Sciences Order or Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter, please call (662) 915-7375.

Sincerely,

Liz Triplett Walker, President

Ginger Brown, President-Elect

New president of national speech-language-hearing group will focus on shortage of teachers with doctorates

The new president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, who also is an Ole Miss professor, says he plans to dedicate his term to addressing "the doctoral-level teacher shortage in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology."

Lawrence W. Higdon, adjunct associate professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and instructor in the Lott Leadership Institute, was

elected to lead the association, which is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 114,000 audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. He will serve a one-year term.

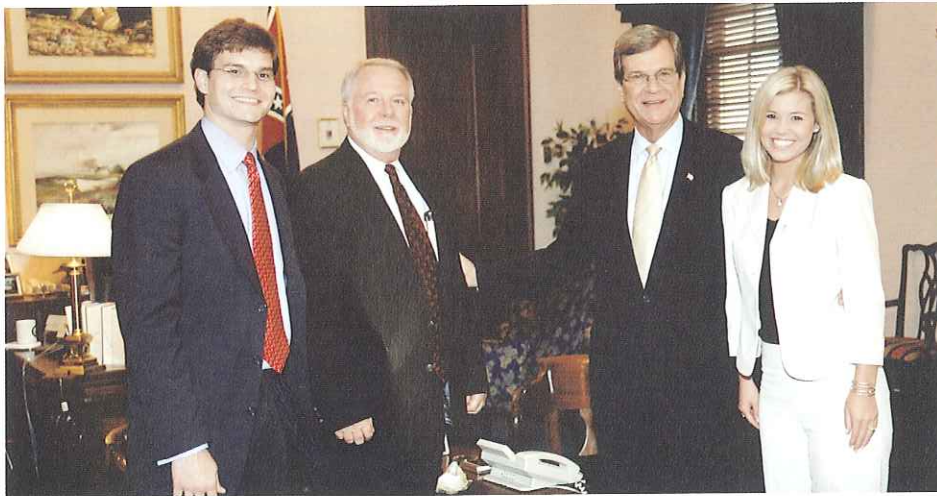
Higdon also said he plans to explore "ways to collaborate with organizations and associations that have common interests with ASHA for the benefit of both members and consumers."

"In our current healthcare and education environment, it is necessary that we demonstrate unity regarding issues relating to communication disorders and sciences in order to effectively market our services," he said.

Linda Chitwood, dean of the School of Applied Sciences, describes Higdon as a talented leader and as an asset to the school.

"We are fortunate to have Larry Higdon as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Applied Sciences, and we are grateful for the contributions he is making here. His talents and leadership will make this a historically productive year for ASHA, and we wish him well," she said.

Higdon, an audiologist and 34-year member of ASHA, is a resident of both Oxford and Austin, Texas. At ASHA, which was founded in 1925, he has also served as vice president for professional practices in audiology and vice president for governmental relations and public policy. Higdon is active in the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, where he is the director of governmental relations. ■



Ryan Pratt (left) of Jackson, ASHA President Larry Higdon, Senator Trent Lott, and Jessica Banahan of Pascagoula. Pratt and Banahan are both members of the Lott Leadership Institute and summer interns for Senator Lott.

Grandparents who raise grandchildren get special recognition—and help

Agrowing number of grandparents are stepping back into parenting, raising their grandchildren as their own. On Feb. 21, the Department of Social Work and community partners hosted a Celebration Brunch and Educational Forum that offered assistance, educational resources, and other support for grandparents and other relatives raising children.

"We know that there are a lot of grandparents and other relatives serving as the primary caregivers for young children. There may be special issues and concerns

they deal with that differ from what parents would deal with," said Jo Ann O'Quin, event coordinator and associate professor of social work and pharmacy administration. "Having a community support network will be beneficial to help address these concerns."

Jennifer Buford, graduate student coordinator and school district attendance officer, agreed. "While the brunch is meant to commend grandparents and others for stepping up and helping to raise children, we also want to provide a state

network to make their jobs easier," she said.

"Grandparents raising children is not an isolated case in Lafayette County; it is a growing trend. In fact, Mississippi is among the top three states in terms of grandparents and other relatives raising children," she said.

Besides commending, assisting, and encouraging grandparents who raise children, the program also provides legal and financial advice, tax tips, and resources for educational and emotional assistance. ■

Senior from Alabama is first recipient of Park and Recreation Management Scholarship

Maggie Haynes, a senior park and recreation management major, is the first recipient of the Park and Recreation Management Endowment Scholarship. Park and recreation management is a division of the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management.

A native of Fairhope, Ala., Haynes is on the Chancellor's List and is a member



Maggie Haynes

of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Recreation and Park Association, and Golden Key academic honor society.

The Park and

Recreation Management Scholarship is awarded annually by its advisory board to a park and recreation management major who has shown evidence of academic success as well as leadership ability and service to the park and recreation management profession. ■

DeSoto Center's day classes in social work and criminal justice reach out to working students

This spring, Tupelo and Southaven residents interested in pursuing a career in social work have a new opportunity at The University of Mississippi's Tupelo and DeSoto Center campuses.

UM-Tupelo and -DeSoto Center have added daytime courses that students can take toward earning a Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. The two campuses already offer several other bachelor's degrees.

The Tupelo and DeSoto Center campuses work hard to create programs that meet the needs of students who work full time and/or have family obligations.

"We are very excited to offer these day classes and provide this opportunity for anyone interested in a social work degree—or in child welfare or social welfare policy issues," said Sherry Jenkins, instructor of social work and the first day faculty member at UM-DeSoto Center.

The degrees are a joint effort of

UM's School of Applied Sciences and the Division of Outreach and Continuing Education. Applicants to the program must meet all admissions requirements of the University. Some courses must be taken at the Oxford campus. Scholarships and tuition waivers are available for out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students.

Applied Sciences Dean Linda Chitwood believes "expansion of the social work and criminal justice program to the Southaven and Tupelo areas is vitally important as the University strives to meet the needs of the state of Mississippi."

"We are pleased with the response to the social work and criminal justice classes at Southaven and Tupelo. A central mission of the School of Applied Sciences is the professional preparation of caring and contributing citizens who will work to improve the welfare of our great state," she said. ■

How to stay involved in your school

- Volunteer to help with school events and activities. Contact sdossett@olemiss.edu.
- Join the Career Alumni Network (CAN) and help mentor a student interested in your career field. Visit <http://career.olemiss.edu/CAN>.
- Join the Alumni Association. Visit www.alumni.olemiss.edu.
- Give us feedback on this newsletter. Contact sdossett@olemiss.edu.
- Say "yes" when a student calls you during the School of Applied Sciences phonathon.
- Join the Applied Sciences Order. Contact sdossett@olemiss.edu or visit www.umf.olemiss.edu/intermed/applied/.
- Make your plans now to attend the next Applied Sciences Weekend, September 24-26. Re-connect with your friends and classmates.
- To find out what's happening at Ole Miss, visit www.olemiss.edu/calendar/ or the newsdesk at www.olemiss.edu/newsdesk.

School of Applied Sciences is proud of spring 2004 Phi Kappa Phi initiates

Four outstanding students in the School of Applied Sciences were among the spring 2004 initiates into Phi Kappa Phi academic honor society at UM.

They include Mary Jane Hedges, a dietetics major of Corinth; Brigitte Nichole Lange, a communicative disorders major of Iuka; Rhiannon Claire Shaw, a social work major of Saltillo; and April Christine Shumake, a hospitality management major of Olive Branch.

Chartered in 1959, Phi Kappa Phi is one of the University's highest academic honor societies recognizing scholarship in all academic disciplines.

Membership into the UM chapter is awarded to no more than 10 percent of the student body each year. Recipients must be juniors or seniors with grade-point averages of 3.80 or higher. ■



Mary Jane Hedges



Brigitte Lange



Rhiannon Shaw



April Shumaker

Professor's concern about kids on welfare leads to recognition from state group

Kim Shackleford, assistant professor of social work, received the Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare Individual Merit Award for her commitment to social welfare.

"They gave a long speech about the winner," Shackleford said. "About halfway through I realized that they were talking about me."

A member of the conference since 1985, Shackleford believes her involvement in social justice and active role in the conference are two reasons she won.

"My main objective is to ensure that children in the welfare system receive the best possible care. Due to recent funding cuts, there are not enough social workers in the state to efficiently monitor this care," she said.

Shackleford said she hopes the award will bring recognition to the University's social work department.

Linda Chitwood, dean of the School of Applied Sciences, said Shackleford's accomplishment is a great honor to the University.

"The School of Applied Sciences is proud of Ms. Shackleford's accomplishments and congratulates her on this outstanding achievement. She has brought a great honor to the school and The University of Mississippi, and is an exemplary role model for students," she said.

Founded in 1927, the Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare consists of over 350 social workers in statewide. ■

Two departments get new leaders

This summer, the School of Applied Sciences welcomes two new department chairs. David Hughes McElreath, a native of Oxford, returns as the new chair of the Department of Legal Studies, and Carol Minor Boyd is the new chair of the Department of Social Work.

A former Lafayette County deputy sheriff and Oxford police officer, McElreath holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from Ole Miss. His Ph.D. is from the University of Southern Mississippi. From 1979



to 1992, he was a member of the criminal justice faculty at Southeast Missouri State University. Since 1992, McElreath has served as chair of criminal justice at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan.

With more than 20 years in the social work profession, Carol Boyd said she believes that "one of the best ways to facilitate learning is to get students excited about social work as a career choice."

Carol Boyd

"Pursuing a degree in social work is more than just a way to earn a living; it is a way to make a contribution to society," she said.

A 1979 graduate of Delta State University, Boyd has been employed at her alma mater since 1987 and was named chair of social work there in July 1991. She earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Doctor of Education from Delta State.

Three applied sciences scholars receive UM's highest honor

Three applied sciences students received the University's highest academic honor during the 61st Honors Day convocation in April.

Marcus Elvis Taylor Memorial Medals went to Amanda Renee Canoy, an exercise science major of Nesbit; Haley Alison Fairbanks, a communicative disorders major of Oxford; and Brigitte Nichole Lange, a communicative disorders major of Iuka.

Taylor Medals are awarded to no more than 1 percent of the University's

student body each year. Recipients must be nominated for outstanding scholarship in a particular field, combined with superior work in all other subjects. Each medal has engraved on it the name of the nominating department.



Brigitte Nichole Lange



Haley Alison Fairbanks



Amanda Renee Canoy

A faculty committee recommends students to be recognized for "meritorious scholarship and deportment" from those nominated by the participating division, then the University's Undergraduate and Academic councils must approve the recommendations.

To be eligible, a student must be a senior with a grade-point average of 3.80 or higher and at least 18 semester hours completed in the school or college in which the nomination originates.

The prestigious awards were established in 1904 by Dr. William A. Taylor of Booneville in memory of his son, Dr. Marcus Elvis Taylor, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1871, and out of "regard and goodwill for the youth of the state, and interest and the work of the University of Mississippi." ■

National award is icing on the cake for dietetics professor who loves teaching

Diane Tidwell did not plan to become a teacher—in fact, she avoided the calling in graduate school. It's a little ironic then that, after eight years at UM, she is being nationally honored for her performance in the classroom.

Tidwell, an associate professor of family and consumer sciences, is one of four regional winners nationwide for the Outstanding Educator for Didactic Programs of the United States. In spring 2003, Tidwell's commitment to education was recognized by students who nominated her as the state's Outstanding Dietetic Educator. The American Dietetic Association reviewed the state

winners leading up to regional and national recognition.

"Dr. Tidwell's dietetics and nutrition expertise has benefited many students, not only across the School of Applied Sciences but also the University as a whole," said Linda Chitwood, dean of applied sciences. "She has also shared her expertise as a volunteer dietitian and has worked with several community-based programs."

Tidwell is chair-elect on the Mississippi Dietetics Association Executive Board of Directors, Council on Education and Research.

Before joining the UM faculty, Tidwell was a nutritionist senior for four



Diane Tidwell

years at the Mississippi State Department of Health. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University. Her doctorate in nutrition and food science technology is from MSU, where she also completed 1,000 supervised clinical hours in dietetics to become a registered dietitian. ■

Teaching students to handle alcohol responsibly is task of new UM position held by applied sciences grad

The newly created position of coordinator of alcohol and drug education at UM has been filled.

Kimberly Kraft, a doctoral candidate in exercise physiology, a discipline of the Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Recreation Management, holds the new position. The Oxford Alcohol Task Force made the recommendation last spring to create the new job in an attempt to address problems associated with alcohol consumption in the city.

Kraft said she considers her work

“extremely important because it reinforces the University’s commitment to the students, a commitment to academic and personal growth.”

“My goal is to teach students how to have the time of their lives without ruining the rest of their lives,” Kraft said. “This same goal applies to the members of the community.”

A native of Tullahoma, Tenn., Kraft holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in wellness and health promotion from Ole Miss. ■



Kimberly Kraft



The University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. 2753-D/5-04

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