Greetings from the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management – NHM for short! This is an exciting time, with many good changes occurring because of the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students. Renovations to Lenoir Hall, accreditation for the hospitality management program, and expansion of the graduate program are just some good things happening in our department. Some things haven’t changed, however. We are still in the business of improving the lives of Mississippians. We are still growing! And our students are still getting good jobs and/or internships. As you read through this newsletter, we hope that you will be as excited as we are about NHM, its achievements, and all the wonderful opportunities for us to work together to continue our success.

Kathy Knight
Associate Professor and Interim Chair
NHM is happy to announce the return of a popular professor, Dr. Earl Palan, who will be teaching sections of Quantity Food Preparation Service. Dr. Palan has been busy since he was last with us. He was director of dietetics/food service at the North MS Regional Center and spent time traveling and being with his granddaughter – but he has returned to NHM because – as he puts it, “It’s great to be with students!” Welcome back Dr. Palan!

Hospitality Management is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Management! Although all programs in NHM are fully accredited with the rest of the university through the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS), the Hospitality Management program has been working for the last three years to become accredited in its own right. The process involved a meticulous self-study, a thorough site visit, and a lengthy follow-up report – but the HM faculty persisted and now our school joins only fifty-eight other colleges and universities as ACPHA member schools.

**Tailgating has never been so much fun!**

The Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management is proud to announce that tailgates are done before each home Ole Miss Football game this season. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are encouraged to stop by. Details can be found on either of the Department’s Facebook Pages (Hospitality Management or Dietetics & Nutrition), and on Twitter. Food, fun, and football talks are the topics of many conversations!
**News, Notes, Highlights, & Introductions ...**

**Dr. Anne Bomba** serves as the Graduate Program Director for NHM’s Master of Science in Food and Nutrition Services program. This past year, she was on the search committee for the new Dean of the School of Applied Sciences and continues her research on breast feeding.

**Dr. Teresa Carithers** is completing a gerontology scholars program through the University of Alabama and was recently awarded distinguished membership into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

**Dr. Yunhee Chang** received Andrew Harvey Fellowship to attend the annual conference of the International Association for Time-Use Research in August 2012 in Matsue, Japan, where she chaired a session and presented two research papers on household time use and food security. Over the summer she also collaborated with the National Youth Policy Institute of South Korea to assess cost-effectiveness of after-school programs.

**Dr. Kathy Knight** serves as interim chair of NHM and teaches graduate and undergraduate nutrition. In 2011-2012, she received funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the obesity prevention program, *Eating Good...and Eating Like We Should* and presented discussions of her work at the Southern Obesity Conferences in New Orleans, LA and Charlotte, NC.

**Dr. Laurel Lambert** is completing a 5 year research study investigating the school nutrition environment and child nutrition programs. She has developed a study abroad course to Italy titled Discover the Cuisine of the Mediterranean in which students will spend 10 days in Florence Italy visiting local food markets, olives groves, and preparing authentic Italian meals with local chefs.

**NHM is pleased to introduce new assistant professor, Dr. Xi Leung.** She comes to us from the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she completed her doctoral studies. She is teaching classes in lodging and hospitality marketing, and conducting research on the use of social media in hospitality marketing.

**Ms. Emmy Parkes** is currently serving as president-elect of the Mississippi Dietetic Association (MDA). She will be overseeing the planning of the annual meeting of MDA, which will be held in Oxford on March 21 & 22, 2013.

We are so pleased that retired associate professor, **Dr. Charlotte Oakley** has come home to NHM to teach, collaborate in research, and work on advancement projects. A Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ADA’s new name), Dr. Oakley attended this year’s Food and Nutrition Conference and Exposition in Philadelphia, PA.

In May 2012, **Mr. Jeremy Roberts** received the Masters in Sports Commerce from the University of Memphis, and he entered the PhD program in Nutrition and Food Systems at the University of Southern Mississippi in August. He currently teaches NHM 312, Event Management, and oversees the *Square Toast for Scholarships and Miss-I-Sippin'* fundraising events.

**Dr. Mary Roseman** is the Director for the Hospitality Management Program. This summer she presented with colleagues at the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education in Providence, RI. In early October, she gave two presentations at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ annual conference in Philadelphia. Her first presentation, coauthored with Susan Adams of LaSalle University, provided recent research of undergraduate dietetic students and dietetic interns on attitudes regarding stereotyping of individuals. The second presentation was co-presented with Dr. Katie Wilson of NFSMI. It explained Dr. Roseman’s work for NFSMI in developing, pilot testing, and modifying the Connect Chefs to School training program, which will roll out nationwide beginning in November.

Last spring, **Dr. Tanya Ruetzler** was promoted to associate professor and tenured. She has published three articles over the past year. One was “What is Professional Attire Today? A Conjoint Analysis of Personal Presentation Attributes” published in *International Journal of Hospitality Management* with **Claire Killen**, a Food and Nutrition Services graduate student. Dr. Ruetzler is also serving on the UM 2020 Internationalization of the Curriculum committee.

**Dr. Jim Taylor** was also promoted to associate professor and tenured. He continues to serve as a member of the Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association board. He also continues his research in the areas of menu analysis and human resource management.

**Dr. Melinda Valliant**, assistant professor, serves as Director of the Graduate Coordinated Program in Dietetics. She also continues to be funded for her corporate wellness project by GE Aviation in Batesville, MS. She directs 3 graduate students working as health coaches to GE employees. She has also expanded her role as Sports Dietitian with Ole Miss Athletics providing nutrition education and information to athletics, trainers and coaches.

Effective this school year, **Mrs. Candis Couch Varnell** became the Hospitality Management Internship Director, and in that capacity, has revised the Hospitality Management Internship Manual. She plans to attend the Club Management Association of America regional meeting in Louisiana to network and establish internship opportunities.

- **Student Highlights** -

**Rachel Adams**, a recent graduate from NHM’s Masters of Food and Nutrition Services program, began working at the Mississippi State Department of Health - District II as a WIC Nutrition Educator.

**Kristen Bramlett**, a senior Hospitality Management major, currently serves as Assistant Event Coordinator/Department Intern for *Square Toast for Scholarships 2012*. She has been one busy girl - working with Square Toast while taking 12 hours of class, and interning with at One Fine Day Events, located in Oxford, MS.

**Katie Kaiser**, a senior Hospitality Management major, currently serves as President of the NHM student organization, OMASH (Ole Miss Ambassadors for Southern Hospitality), and placed Runner-Up in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality and Restaurant Pageant 2012. Katie is also an Honors College student researching Mississippi Tourism for her thesis.

- **Alumni Highlights** -

We want to hear from you! Please send your news – career, family or whatever – to **Kathy Knight** at: kknights@olemiss.edu.
The Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management has made several improvements to our programs and facilities as a result of the generosity of our alumni. Please consider making a financial donation to the department so that we may continue to grow and improve our programs. Make your gift online through the UM Foundation (www.umfoundation.com) or mail directly to: P.O. Box 249; University, MS 38677.

NHM’s largest event of the year, Square Toast for Scholarships, occurred on Thursday, November 1st from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the Historic Oxford Square. There were 32 different venues around the Square, with a Silent Auction (housed with Registration in The Lyric Theatre). Restaurants on and off the square joined in for this event, as well as many former and new retail venues. Over 400 tickets were sold for this year’s event and literally had the Square come to life with all involved!

Upon the conclusion of this event, over $25,000 was raised to go towards the Hospitality Management Scholarship Endowment. With this year and the last four, the department has raised over $85,000 to go towards the endowment.

Students in the NHM 312, Event Management class worked extremely hard to make this year’s event the best ever!

Save the Date: Square Toast for Scholarships 2013 is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2013. This event will be the sixth annual Square Toast for Scholarships. We are looking to add even more to the event - venues, silent auction items, and even more support from our gracious donors and alumni! This event is not possible without your involvement.

(Email - sqtoast@olemiss.edu, Twitter - @SquareToastUM, “Square Toast for Scholarships” on Facebook, or Website - www.olemiss.edu/squaretoast.)