A TIME FOR MOVING FORWARD

William Carey University president discusses progress, future goals

By Michael Coelho
Editor-in-Chief

Enrollment growth, an expanded campus, national recognition and a seemingly endless potential for growth have ushered in a new era for William Carey University.

In the last calendar year alone, the school has enjoyed high enrollment, expanded its existing buildings and literally pushed the limits of campus beyond the black fence that once contained the school. Now with over 4,000 students spread across two campuses, Carey has outgrown itself and become a recognizable brand throughout the Southeast and nationally.

Carey has opened two new buildings on the Hattiesburg campus as well as expanded its medical school, which graduated its inaugural class in May. The new buildings include a School of Business that will open its doors for the first time in the fall term and a chapel.

"The new chapel is something that has always been a dream of mine," said Dr. King in an interview with The Cobbler. "When I was a student here, Carey students used to load up and drive to Southern Miss to pray and worship in the Danforth Chapel. I felt that was kind of a shame and I really look forward to having such a beautiful chapel right here on campus for the convenience of our students."

In addition to all the upgrades on campus, Carey's athletic programs have continued to excel since joining the Southern States Athletic Conference in the 2010-2011 school year. As with many schools, a successful athletic program can be the doormat for the university and Dr. King expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments of the Crusaders not just in the SSAC but nationally as well. "We first joined the SSAC with some fear and trembling because we realized that we were joining the SEC of the NAIA; we competed that very first year in the conference and have thrived ever since," said Dr. King.

See Moving Forward, Page 2

Open for 'Business'

William Carey University's new School of Business building was recently completed and will hold classes for the first time in the fall trimester. The state-of-the-art new facility will provide a strong infrastructure for business students for years to come, according to university officials. (FULL STORY – Page 8)

WCUCOM celebrates inaugural graduation

From Staff Reports

The William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated the inaugural medical school class on May 24. Ninety-four students received their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees during this historic event. Upon graduation, WCUCOM also officially obtained accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

Discussions to establish the medical school developed nearly 10 years ago when William Carey University's Board of Trustees recognized the need for primary care physicians in the region.

See COM Graduation, Page 3
In the last year alone, Carey's athletic program saw softball finish second nationally; men's basketball head to the national tournament in Kansas City, Mo., for the second year in a row; and women's soccer ran the table and completed a season in which they won every conference game, including all games in the conference tournament en route to the SSAC title. Success didn't end on the field, however, as Carey's student-athletes again proved why Carey is beefing up its athletic reputation.

“Our softball team was actually number one in the country in team GPA and six total teams were recognized as NAIA Scholar Teams,” said Dr. King.

Other staples of the Carey campus include the music department growing andbecoming an increased presence in the community, speech and debate having another successful year and finishing second nationally and the biology department doubling in size.

With Carey growing in seemingly every department, Dr. King views it as a relief to see that with a new school year enrollment appears to have stabilized, allowing the university to catch up with the record-setting pace it has been on. Despite the addition of Davis Hall just a year ago and the availability of the new Penton Street Apartments, housing is still at a premium for the university.

“We have a lot of catching up to do and despite adding three dorms in the last five years we are still overbooked for all on campus housing,” said Dr. King. “You can’t imagine how much life has been pumped into the on-campus community in the last few years and it has created an atmosphere and life to the school.”

Housing won’t be the only concern moving forward as more improvements must be made if the school is to accommodate the growth in enrollment. The renovations to the campus bookstore and post office appear to be the stepping stones for what Dr. King eventually hopes will lead to an expanded library and cafeteria.

Dr. King mentioned how noticeable the increased activity in the cafeteria has been in the past few years.

“It used to be the cafeteria would only operate during the nine-month school year and would close on extended breaks and holidays,” he said. “Now the cafeteria staff continues to work full-time throughout the year and even during the summer our cafeteria is busy with students and workers.”

Growth and development on this level and plans for so much expansion in the immediate future would be enough to satisfy any university, but it appears Carey will not stop just yet. Plans for the new gymnasium, which will expand the boundaries of campus far beyond their current state, are still in the works as well as a new track facility that would be built in a manner that "could accommodate a football field" in the future. Furthermore, Dr. King revealed the possibility that a physical therapy school seems to be in the works for the Hattiesburg campus as well as a pharmacy school on the Tradition campus, which would only be the second of its kind in the state.

Heading into this new year, the possibilities are endless and there seems to be no stopping the potential of what this university can do, said Dr. King.

“I am very proud of what this university has accomplished nationally and that is evident with the honors the university has received in the past year. Carey has been measured in various categories such as value, performance and career development, and has consistently been recognized as one of the top performing schools in the area,” he said.
Scholarship created in memory of Iler

By Joshua Wilson
Advisor

The early 2014 loss of a William Carey University music education major has prompted an anonymous donor to establish a scholarship in the student’s memory.

The Michael Iler Memorial Music Scholarship was established in memory of Michael Iler, who died on March 2 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident caused by an alleged drunk driver. Michael's wife, Annissa, survived but suffered serious injuries.

The Ilers, both natives of Vancleave, arrived at Carey in August 2013, with Michael joining the steadily-growing Winters School of Music and Annissa majoring in her passion of elementary education. Both Michael and Annissa joined the university’s marching band, Spirit of Carey. They had married only a month earlier after four years of courtship and were anxious to begin their lives together. Michael had been recruited to Carey by his high school band director Jeremy Morgan, who had since joined the faculty ranks of Carey’s music school.

“Michael had been State [Mississippi State University] bound for as long as I can remember,” said Michael’s mother, Michelle Iler. “We got the call from Jeremy and came for COCA, stated that the next step to Hattiesburg with plans to visit Carey in the morning for Michael and Southern [the University of Southern Mississippi] in the afternoon for Annissa.”

The Ilers never made it to USM that afternoon. In fact, it only took them a few hours to be impressed enough that both Michael and Annissa enrolled at Carey.

“Before we left the campus that day, the blessings and gifts had already started to flow,” recalled Michelle. “They were able to secure a [married couple’s] apartment and generous scholarships … enough that we could afford to pay for both of their educations.”

Michelle said it was obvious that “God had laid down a path” for her son and his new bride. “It was like God was saying, ‘Here is your path, now follow Me,'” she said.

The Ilers proved to be outstanding students at Carey and role models for their fellow students. They both held part-time jobs at local eateries during their time at Carey and maintained close relationships with their professors and fellow students.

The news of the accident, which occurred in the early morning hours of a Sunday, rocked the Carey family. Almost immediately following the news, Carey personnel and fellow students arrived to be with the family.

Michelle said the Carey family has supported her family in indescribable ways, from supporting Annissa in her desire to return to school to providing a place for the family to gather while in Hattiesburg. The love, support and outreach from Carey … all amazing and a God-send,” she said.

The support has also helped Annissa Iler in her long journey to recovery, which included three months of no weight bearing on her left leg and 12 weeks of physical therapy twice a week. Full recovery could be achieved in a year, but there will “always be trauma to the area and the need for a hip replacement in a later stage of life,” said Michelle.

Despite her injuries, Annissa plans to return to Carey in August to resume her studies.

“Michael would want me to keep going and continue on my path,” said Annissa.

She added that she is getting stronger, both in her faith and on emotional and physical levels, with each passing day.

“Michael was such a strong believer [in Christ] who always pushed me to have more faith,” said Annissa. “My faith gets stronger with each day, even though there have been many challenges.”

Both Michelle and Annissa said the news of the establishment of the scholarship in Michael’s memory was a joy.

“Michael and Annissa were able to come to Carey because of generosity,” said Michelle. “Michael was never selfish, and he would want someone else to get the same opportunities he had.”

To donate to the Michael Iler Memorial Music Scholarship, contact the Office for Advancement at (601) 318-6542 or by mail at WCU Box 141, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Donate online at www.wmcarey.edu/advancement.

COM Graduation (continued from front)

They saw an opportunity to make that dream a reality. In 2007, under the leadership of current WCU President Dr. Tommy King, a dean for the WCUCOM was hired. In January 2008, the medical school was officially founded, and in August 2010, the WCUCOM welcomed its inaugural class of 110 students.

As the 26th school of osteopathic medicine in the country and the first in the state, WCUCOM is training student doctors for careers in primary care medicine to address the physician shortage in the Gulf South Region, particularly within rural and underserved communities. WCUCOM is not only working to train students to become successful primary care physicians, but also to retain them upon graduation, providing a major source for the state health care workforce. Admissions preference is strongly given to applicants from Mississippi and the Gulf South U.S.

“Until WCUCOM began classes four years ago, Mississippians who wanted to become osteopathic physicians had to go to West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, or Florida to attend medical school and residency,” said Dr. William Mayo, owner of the Mayo Eye Center in Oxford, clinical instructor at the WCUCOM and member of the American Osteopathic Association's board of trustees. “It is more difficult to get physicians to return to Mississippi when they have spent several years away. It's vitally important that we can train our DOs here in Mississippi.”

WCUCOM is continually working to establish residency programs around the state to aid in retention efforts. WCUCOM Dean Dr. Jim Turner, who was recently nominated to team leader for COCA, stated that the next step the medical school will take is to address the development of post-graduate options in Mississippi to meet the residency training needs of WCUCOM graduates.

“The College of Osteopathic Medicine has brought WCU to a level that was beyond the dreams of Carey employees and alumni,” said Dr. Tommy King, president of WCU.
Women's soccer aims for success in 2014 season

By Tim Herring
Sports Writer

The William Carey women's soccer team had one of the greatest seasons in the history of the program in 2013.

When all was said and done, women's soccer finished 18-5 overall, 11-0 in conference play, won the SSAC conference tournament and won an NAIA National Tournament opening round game at home before advancing to the championship tournament in Orange Beach, Ala. However, that is the past and it is time for them to focus on the present.

The soccer team has been on campus since the beginning of August to prepare for this upcoming season. This time has consisted of mostly fitness tests with practice beginning in the third week. There are officially 27 players on the roster this year.

One area of emphasis for the 2014 squad will be on the back line where junior keeper Linfah Jones is a key returner for this season as well as a back line consisting of seniors Morgan Marfisi, Ashley Allen and Lauren Satcher and junior Brittany Lang. Another key senior this year will be starting forward Claudia Saucedo, who will undoubtedly look to shoulder a majority of the goal scoring load vacated by the graduation of Emmaleigh Davis.

One of the questions raised about 2014 is the midfield section coming into the 2014 season. How would they be able to fill in that integral group of seniors from the 2013 season?

When talking to senior standout Morgan Marfisi, she mentioned that Head Coach Danny Owens has done a good job of recruiting this past year. Two freshman have shown that they will be ready to compete for starting roles in 2014 and many other newcomers have made their presence felt as well. The recruits of the 2014 class are truly showing that they are going to fill in the spots of the key seniors that were lost after the 2013 season, and that it looks like the Crusaders are in good shape heading into 2014.

The SSAC ranked Carey's women soccer number one to open the season and surely there is a target on their backs for 2014. The 2014 season started on Aug. 22 with the Lady Crusaders opening the season against University of Houston-Victoria at Crusader Field. SSAC play begins on Oct. 2 with Belhaven on the road and then returns Oct. 4 against longtime rival Mobile.

Men's soccer set for better outcome in 2014

By Tim Herring
Sports Writer

The Carey men's soccer team had a winning season during the 2013 season, but they were not happy with the outcome when they lost in the first round of SSAC tournament. If they plan to go further than they did in the previous season, improving through the preseason will play a huge role.

Captain of this year's 2014 team, Andri Por Jonsson, was able to provide some information on how the team is coming along with preseason practice. He mentioned how the team is bonding and investing in the newcomers to make them feel very comfortable for this season. There are only four seniors returning for the 2014 season, which will surely be a major test for the Crusaders this season.

Key returners for this year include defensesman Andri, forward Danny Eborall, defenseman Thilo Koerperich, midfielder Lauri Tuohisto-Kokko and defenseman Fred Felix. Two main freshmen standouts to watch out for in the 2014 season are forward Pedro Villar Roldan and midfielder Marc Rodriguez Canet. Senior Sam Barnsley will threaten to be a potential standout as a midfielder or forward this year.

The overall record for the men's team was 12-5-1 in the 2013 season; thus far, it appears the bar has been set and the Crusaders will look to contend for another championship in 2014. The start of the season was Aug. 22 against the University of Houston-Victoria at 7:30 p.m. at Crusader Field. SSAC conference play will begin on Oct. 2 against Belhaven and then they will return to take on Mobile at Crusader Field on Oct. 4.
College football enters a new era

It is that time again! It is time to tailgate, get our college colors out, make sure we have our tickets for the big games of the season, as well as anything we need to get ready for the college football season. ESPN has labeled this as one of the most interesting seasons we will see in years and the buzz around the season has never been stronger.

Last year, we saw the BCS era go out with a bang. The 2014 BCS Championship game consisted of the Florida State Seminoles against the Auburn Tigers. The Auburn Tigers started off the game great by leading into halftime with a 21-10 lead over the Seminoles and then both sides of the ball of FSU tightened up and came back in dramatic fashion to win 34-31.

The BCS era witnessed the past eight BCS championships with a SEC team making it to the national title and winning seven out of eight of those title games. That is a great streak for a conference in the national spotlight, but now the BCS era is retired and it is time to bring in the new best thing on the block: the playoff system.

Many people has asked “How is this supposed to work?” or “Who will be invited to this playoff?” The way the College Football Committee will select a national championship is by giving not only the top two teams in the nation the opportunity to play in the national title but offering a playoff system that allows the top four teams in the rankings to compete for the national title and all the bragging rights.

Bleacher Report recently did a prediction of what four teams would possibly make it in the inaugural year of the playoff system. This included major powerhouse such as the Alabama Crimson Tide, BCS national champions Florida State Seminoles and the Rose Bowl champion Michigan State Spartans. The final one is an eyebrow raiser: The last team predicted is the UCLA Bruins, who won in the Sun Bowl to finish the season 10-3. Clearly expectations are high and we are bound to see four fantastic teams at the end of the year.

Regardless of who is selected, there will always be someone on the outside looking in and not even this new college playoff system will be able to save that. You can already hear fans in Athens or Columbus up in arms over why their teams aren’t considered favorites in 2014. With Alabama, FSU and Michigan State the favorites according to Bleacher Report, much of the controversy has revolved around discussion of who the number four team could be. It’s easy to see why they picked UCLA as the final team. UCLA has turned their program around in the past couple of seasons and could possibly be a dark horse going into this upcoming season because they have the potential to contend for any major bowl game.

Now, back to the structure of the playoff system. New Year’s Day will consist of the semifinal games, where it will have No. 1 vs. No. 4 and No. 2 vs. No. 3. The general locations for this year will be the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl, and then the national title will be played in North Texas. So, sit back and enjoy as the season is right around the corner. Let’s see who will lift up the trophy as champions in north Texas.

Softball takes on the World Series

By D.J. Pulley  Sports Information

In late May, William Carey softball went on a run to remember in the 2014 NAIA World Series. After finishing second in the Southern States Athletic Conference tournament, WCU opened national tournament play at home hosting a four-team double elimination tournament at Joseph and Nancy Fail Field May 12-14. The Lady Crusaders left little to doubt as they roared into halftime with a 10-1 lead. Just like they had done time and time again, WCU refused to go away. The Lady Crusaders scored three runs and brought the tying run to the plate but WCU rallied and won. On day five, WCU needed two wins to advance to the championship round and after dispatching Oklahoma City 7-0 only No. 5 Reinhardt stood in the Lady Crusaders’ way. WCU stormed to a 6-0 lead before the Lady Eagles rallied with six straight runs to tie the game and force extra innings. Neither team threatened in seventh or the eighth inning but in the ninth a solo home run propelled WCU to the championship round.

Waiting for the Lady Crusaders in the finals was SSAC foe Auburn Montgomery. WCU needed to defeat AUM twice to capture the championship. In game one, Carey defeated AUM 7-4 to force the deciding game.

In the finals, the WCU bats went silent early on and AUM’s heated up as they notched four runs in the first inning and five in the sixth inning to open a 10-1 lead. Just like they had done time and time again, WCU refused to go away. The Lady Crusaders scored three runs and brought the tying run to the plate but the dream wasn’t meant to be, ending their fantastic run through the Series. Relanda McFarland, Hannah Cook-Kelley and Caroline Walker were named to the 2014 NAIA All-World Series team.

WCU finished the 2014 season at 52-12.
Celebrating Tatum Court Centennial

University marks administration building's 100th year

By Joshua Wilson
Advisor

The most iconic building on the William Carey University campus turned 100 years old in 2014, and university officials are planning to celebrate the milestone.

Tatum Court, the university’s administration building, was built in 1914 at the cost of $312,982.09. The colonial-style building boasted a large auditorium, classrooms, laboratories, the library and even a swimming pool on the first floor.

In 1914, the university was known as Mississippi Woman’s College. MWC was the second higher education institution located on the land that now houses WCU. In 1906, South Mississippi College opened, only to be closed following a devastating fire in 1910.

W. S. F. Tatum, a Methodist and a wealthy Hattiesburg lumberman, acquired the former SMC property and offered it first to the Methodists. They turned down his offer, leading Tatum to offer the land to the Mississippi Baptists. He set two conditions: the successful operation of a Christian school for girls for five years and an enrollment of at least 100 students the first year. The school reopened in 1911 as Mississippi Woman’s College.

Tatum Court, named for the MWC benefactor, was a sign of the prosperity of MWC. By standing outside of the front door of the building, one could see clear to downtown Hattiesburg if the weather conditions were right.

The iconic building has been renovated five times since its construction, but the exterior remains largely unchanged from its original build. The swimming pool is now long gone, with the first floor now serving as space for the Department of Theatre and Communication. Despite the changes, the building has remained the hub of activity for the university through many changes. It is the oldest surviving building on the WCU campus.

To celebrate the building's centennial, university officials will hold a celebration at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 26.
Tips for Surviving College

By Joshua Wilson
Advisor

The transition into college life can be a frightening one. Even though William Carey University provides a friendly and safe Christian environment, the entire college experience can be a daunting one – especially for freshmen, and usually for all other students, too. Even though sophomores, juniors and seniors have already traversed the college seas before, it can still be a tedious and frightening process for them, too.

How do you make a life a little easier on yourself and cut down on the stress that every college student inevitably faces? Here’s a few tips and tricks to make your college years go by much easier.

Academics First:

Go to class. We all know that sometimes class can be a huge drag, and we can all convince ourselves to skip a few times here and there. Stop that! Try to attend each class session so you won’t have to concern yourself with playing catch-up – or repeating the course for missing too much material. No one will be happy if you have to pay to retake a class.

Be on time for class. There’s nothing more embarrassing than stumbling in way late and interrupting faculty during their lectures – especially the ones who like to call you on it. Plus, it’ll keep you in good graces with them, and that’s always a bonus.

Listen in class. Be present … BUT … Don’t get too bogged down in extracurricular activities. Be familiar with student activities. The Student Government Association is always planning things for students to do on campus. Keep an eye out for those things.

Get Involved:

Don’t be a hermit. Join one of the many clubs or organizations on campuses. It’s a fast way to make new friends, and the new experience will be good for you, too. (The Cobbler is always looking for good stuff … just saying).

Get Familiar:

Get to know student leaders. Meet your SGA officers. They’re there to help students – make use of them. Get to know your professors, and ESPECIALLY your academic advisor. They are extremely valuable resources when you need help. Get to know your fellow students. They will be your friends throughout this entire ride. Make friends, and make them for life.

Be Responsible:

You are responsible for your actions, not anyone else. Learn to accept responsibility.

Be Open:

Don’t procrastinate. It’s so much easier. Letting your hair down can be fun, but there needs be a line that doesn’t need to be crossed.

Always Remember:

These are the years you’ll cherish for the rest of your life. So, make the most of them.

Editor’s Note: This column and its graphic are from The Cobbler archives and were originally printed in August 2011. The author adapted and edited the article for use in this edition.

FEATURES

For more information, contact:
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Interested in having your work published? We are currently seeking applicants for 2014-2015 staff positions, including section editors, graphic artists, cartoonists and reporters. This is a unique and fun way to get more involved on the William Carey University campus.

Michael Coelho, a senior business major from Niceville, Fla., has been named editor-in-chief of The Cobbler student newspaper. He will continue to serve as sports editor, a role he has held since 2012.

THE COBBLER

student Spotlight

COELHO

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State-of-the-art School of Business opens

From Staff Reports

Students will walk the halls of the new School of Business building for the first time beginning in the fall trimester.

The new facility, which sits on Tuscan Avenue across from the State-of-the-art School of Business opens in Durban, South Africa, and at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom. Among other roles, Dr. Gay has served as a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine and the Ryan White Title IV HIVQUAL programs that we offer,” said Dr. Dale.

The 20,574-square-foot new building, with a price tag just under $3 million, includes state-of-the-art multimedia lecture halls on the first floor and five classrooms and a computer lab on the second floor. The lobby includes a grand staircase and an eight-foot European crystal chandelier given by a donor.

“The School of Business faculty and staff are excited about this new building and the opportunities for our students,” said Dr. Dale.

White Coat Ceremony welcomes 108 new COM students

By Joshua Wilson Advisor

The William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) held the fifth annual White Coat Ceremony for the medical school class of 2018 on August 16 in Smith Auditorium.

The new class consists of 108 students selected from an applicant pool of 2,442. The class includes 66 men and 42 women ranging in ages from 18-45. The average age in the new class is 25. The class has a total of 112 bachelor’s degrees and 48 master’s degrees, with some students holding several degrees.

The majority of the new students are from the Gulf South region of the United States. Of the students, 28 are from Mississippi; 23 are from Louisiana; 15 are from Florida; 14 are from Texas; eight are from Arkansas; and six are from Alabama.

There are two students each from California, Georgia and New York, and one student each from Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Tennessee.

During the ceremony, each student was cloaked with a white medical coat before taking the osteopathic oath of commitment in front of faculty members, family and guests. This meaningful ritual symbolizes the students’ promise to accept the fundamental obligations in the practice of osteopathic medicine: to be excellent in science, to be compassionate and to lead lives of uprightness and honor.

WCUCOM, the second medical school in Mississippi and the state’s only osteopathic medical school, graduated its inaugural class and received full accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association’s Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation in 2014.

Asbury Award recipient named

From Staff Reports

Student Doctor Terry Fokakis, a second-year medical student at the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, was presented with the Asbury Award for Academic Excellence on August 16.

The annual award is given to a second-year medical student with the highest grade point average who lives in the eight-county area served by the Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg. Preference is given to a student who intends to practice in Mississippi. The award includes a medallion and a cash stipend and is presented at the White Coat Ceremony welcoming new medical students to WCU.

Fokakis, of Hattiesburg, has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Mississippi College and a Master of Science degree in biomedical sciences from Northwestern University. He is the son of Dr. Arthur and Mary Virginia Fokakis and husband to Kendra Fokakis. After graduation from the WCUCOM in 2017, Fokakis plans to practice medicine in Mississippi.

The award was presented to Fokakis by William K. “Bill” Ray, president of the Asbury Foundation, and by Dr. Tommy King, president of WCU.

Dr. Gay receives honorary doctorate

By Joshua Wilson Advisor

Dr. Hannah Gay, a pediatric specialist of worldwide renown, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at William Carey University’s commencement on Saturday, August 9.

The honorary doctorate, awarded by WCU’s Board of Trustees and presented by President Dr. Tommy King, recognized Dr. Gay for her lifetime of selfless, Christian service as a medical doctor and missionary.

Dr. Gay, professor of pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson, Mississippi, earned international attention at an infectious diseases conference in 2013 with a case report on the “Mississippi Baby.”

The report detailed how Dr. Gay administered an early, three-drug treatment regimen to a newborn infected with HIV, which appeared to have prompted remission of the HIV disease in the child. The report was then published in the New England Journal of Medicine. TIME Magazine later named Dr. Gay and her colleagues, Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga and Dr. Deborah Persaud, to its 2013 list of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.”

In July 2014, after 27 months of remission, the virus was again detected in the child during a routine clinic visit and blood test.

Dr. Gay received her bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry at the University of Mississippi before earning her M.D. from UMMC in 1980. Dr. Gay and her husband, Paul, served for six years in Africa as missionaries in Ethiopia before returning to the United States, where she joined the UMMC faculty in 1994 as a pediatric HIV specialist.

Dr. Gay has spoken at UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS special symposium in Durban, South Africa, and at the Oxford Union in the United Kingdom.

Among other roles, Dr. Gay has served as a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine and the Ryan White Title IV HIVQUAL Advisory Committee.

Dr. Gay and her husband have four adult children and are active members of their Baptist church.

State-of-the-art School of Business opens