

# VITAL SIGNS

Fall 2016

Newsletter of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing

Volume 4: Issue 1

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## Kirkendall selected Daisy Faculty Award winner

Last July, Neeli Kirkendall embarked on a new journey in her nursing career. During the last 10 years, she has served Mississippi as a family nurse practitioner. "I absolutely loved my patients, but felt the stirring that there was something else I was meant to do," Kirkendall said. "When the opportunity arose to move my family to Oxford to join the faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, I knew that although this transition would be difficult, it was my next designated challenge. I am still in awe of how amazing this year has been."

Kirkendall said she believes all people are here for a purpose, they search their entire lives trying to find that purpose, but she is blessed to say that she never had to search for hers. "I have always been very focused on my mission, and nursing is the perfect career fit," Kirkendall said. "I have been able to care for patients and carry out my mission all over this great state of Mississippi. From the beginning of my nursing career as a student nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to serving as a provider in Kosciusko, every day has impacted my career, leaving a valuable imprint on my life."



Presenting the 2016 Daisy Faculty Award to Neeli Kirkendall, right, is Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing. The award nominees were announced during the annual strategic evaluation day last June. Kirkendall was among 15 faculty members who were nominated by faculty, staff and students.

While obtaining her bachelor's degree in nursing, she made many new additions to her vocabulary. Probably the most impactful was holistic. This approach to nursing encompasses healing the whole person as its goal — healing the body, mind and spirit. "How exciting to hear something I completely understood — my mission! I have desperately tried every day to embody this work into my practice in caring for patients and now students," said Kirkendall. As part of receiving the DAISY Faculty Award, she was presented a Shona sculpture entitled "A Healer's Touch." Kirkendall said she believes this is a powerful reminder of nurses' duty to embrace the relationships they have with their patients and students.

...continued on page 8

**Mission: To develop nurse leaders and improve health within and beyond Mississippi through excellence in education, research, practice and service.**

## Dean's corner



*photo courtesy of Public Affairs*  
Dr. Kim Hoover, center, tours the simulation lab with Vandergriff, left, and Dr. Robyn MacSorley, clinical skills and simulation director.

With so many exciting things happening in and around the SON, the most difficult aspect of writing this column is choosing what not to write! In addition to what is included in this edition, I could talk about our new strategic priority implementation teams; the privilege of sharing special moments with our students and their families, such as graduation and pinning; or the dedicated faculty and staff – all worthy topics – but not possible without the support of our alumni.

Many of our alumni give back in many ways. In addition to scholarships for students, Bobbie Ward recently made

a substantial donation to assist in the purchase of the Midtown Mobile Clinic and Julia McCormick donated all proceeds from the sale of her Alabama home to the SON.

We recently had the pleasure of hosting Jo Ann McCullar Vandergriff in the SON. She had not returned to the school since 1979, but has chosen to set up a scholarship to assist accelerated students and a planned gift that will provide significant support to the school through a charitable remainder trust. We spent the morning touring the school, talking about the changes that had occurred since her graduation and meeting our team. Vandergriff, a family nurse practitioner, and her husband have been providing services and care to underserved populations for much of their careers, from Yemen to the Navajo Nation. She was so impressed with our dedication to improving health care through education, practice, research and service that she is planning a return trip next year to tour our clinics.

We are experiencing the culmination of years of effort by scores of people in the past and present. Thank you to all who have and do contribute to the success of our school.

## Administrative appointments

During the semester, four professors received promotions to leadership positions in the School of Nursing. Dr. Jennifer Robinson was promoted to associate dean for research and scholarship, joining Dr. Janet Y. Harris and Dr. Marcia Rachel. Dr. Tina Martin was promoted to assistant dean for accreditation and evaluation. Dr. LaDonna Northington was promoted to assistant dean for undergraduate programs. Dr. Robin Wilkerson was promoted to assistant dean for the Oxford campus. Congratulations to all and thank you for your continued service to the SON!

## Editor's Notes

*Vital Signs*, a School of Nursing internal publication, is published three times per year. Content includes alumni, faculty, staff and student achievements, as well as photos from the semester. Please direct comments, suggestions or questions to [nsrecruiter@umc.edu](mailto:nsrecruiter@umc.edu).

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*"The School of Nursing is dedicated to developing nurse leaders through unique community-based systems serving vulnerable populations; innovative partnerships; exemplary clinical experiences across the continuum of care; evidence-based practice and a research-intensive environment; a focus on excellence in teaching and lifelong learning; and highly qualified, expert faculty."*

## Alumni greetings

On behalf of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing alumni chapter, I would like to thank each of you for your involvement and support of our school. It is such an honor to be a part of the great work that takes place in our school each day, and all of you contribute to the success of that work. It is indeed an exciting time!

Members of the Nursing Alumni Board will join the Office of Alumni Affairs on a trip to visit the School of Nursing Delta Clinics. It is sure to be a memorable and educational experience. It will take place on Sept. 13, and we have encouraged all members to join in.

We are looking forward to a lovely reception hosted by the School of Nursing and our Office of Alumni Affairs during this year's Mississippi Nurses Association Convention. The reception is always well attended and offers an opportunity for networking and catching up with old friends and colleagues. This year's convention theme is "Roaring Into a Culture of Health: Our Vision, Our Voice," and the 1920s vibe will resonate throughout. I encourage you to attend and take advantage of the dynamic presentation on the latest topics related to our profession and hands-on workshops!

We also have developed some additional structure and sub-committees to support our mission, and that work will start in the fall. Alumni Board members were invited to attend the School of Nursing's Strategy Day, and we are humbled and excited to be included in the strategic planning surrounding the mission and vision of our school. This partnership will certainly impact our subcommittees' focus and work.

Heather Pierce, president-elect, April Mann, director of alumni affairs, and I are elated about the changes taking place as we move forward, and we are excited to work alongside each of you.

Sincerely,

Amber Arnold, DNP, RN  
Nursing Alumni President, 2015-17  
Class of 1999 (BSN), Class of 2009 (MSN), Class of 2013 (DNP)  
(601) 815-9256 • aarnold@umc.edu



*Dr. Amber Arnold,  
Nursing Alumni  
President*

## Upcoming events

**Honor Code signing**  
Wed., Sept. 14

**Nurse educator conference**  
Fri., Sept. 23

**STTI Region 8 conference**  
Thu.-Sat., Sept. 29-Oct. 1

**Student leadership retreat**  
Sat., Oct. 15

**MNA convention**  
Tues.-Fri., Oct. 18-21

**Diabetes nursing conference**  
Thu.-Fri., Nov. 3-4

**Fall break**  
Mon.-Fri., Nov. 21-25

**Accelerated pinning**  
Wed., Dec. 7

**Classes end**  
Sat., Dec. 17

**Jackson Accelerated BSN,  
MSN and Post-master's  
orientation**  
Wed., Jan. 4, 2017

**RN-BSN orientation**  
Thurs., Jan. 5, 2017

**Classes begin**  
Mon., Jan. 9, 2017

**Ignite Career Fair and  
Financial Aid Awareness**  
Wed., Feb. 1, 2017

## Save the Date: Region 8 Conference

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the **Sigma Theta Tau International Region 8 Conference** this year in Jackson. The SON's Theta Beta chapter is hosting the conference at the Jackson Marriott Hotel from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. Featured speakers include Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Larry Slater, a clinical assistant professor from the New York University College of Nursing. Poster and oral presentations, continuing education credits, a photo booth and a silent auction will be available. To register and pay, visit <http://thetabeta.nursingsociety.org/home>.

## Three-time School of Nursing alumna selected AANP Fellow



*Dr. Johnnie Sue  
Wijewardane*

*Courtesy of: MUW University Relations*

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) has selected a School of Nursing alum, Dr. Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, as a 2016 fellow. AANP fellows contributions have led to meaningful improvements to health care and the nurse practitioner role.

“Being selected as a 2016 fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners is certainly exciting and exceeds any goal I could have had,” Wijewardane said. “This is one of the greatest career honors a nurse practitioner can receive.”

By being named a fellow, Wijewardane will have the opportunity to mentor and facilitate leadership opportunities for nurse practitioners.

“To be selected by my peers to join such a distinguished group really encourages me to work harder to fulfill the purpose of the AANP Fellows, to impact national and global health by engaging recognized nurse practitioners to lead new initiatives and support the AANP mission,” she said.

Wijewardane was first encouraged to apply for fellowship in 2014 by Dr. Susan VanBeuge, her primary sponsor, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Cindy Luther of the University of Mississippi Medical Center is her secondary sponsor.

“Looking ahead, I intend to lead nurse practitioners in transforming patient-centered health care by continuing to model the roles of educator, mentor, leader, advocate and clinician,” said Wijewardane. “I also feel a deep sense of obligation to lead and mentor nurse practitioners to participate in education and policy to break down barriers to practice [and] improve access to care for all citizens of Mississippi and the U.S.”

The 2016 FAANP Induction Ceremony took place in June during the AANP 31st National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Wijewardane earned her doctorate, master’s and bachelor’s degrees at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has been a graduate faculty member at the W since 2008 and a nurse practitioner for 14 years. With experience in a variety of settings from neuro, ER/ICU, occupational health, family practice and geriatrics, Wijewardane was part of developing the Doctor of Nursing Practice — the W’s first doctoral program.

## Bailes selected for national leadership program



*Dr. Wendy Bailes*

Dr. Wendy Bailes, a graduate of the PhD in Nursing program, was selected to participate in the 2016 Cohort of Fellows for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing/Wharton Executive Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania. The program provides academic-nursing administrators and leaders with advanced skills.

“[I would like] to express my gratitude for what the PhD program and Dr. [Marcia] Rachel provided throughout my time in the program,” said Bailes. “I believe UMMC has an excellent reputation for all their programs; however, the rigor associated with the PhD [in Nursing

program] serves graduates very well. While the program is difficult, it prepares us to step up and overcome challenges post-graduation, whether we are serving in leadership positions in academic settings or continuing to conduct research. I’m grateful for how the program has equipped me in my role as associate director. I believe that what I learn at Wharton will build on a solid foundation provided by the SON and faculty at UMMC.”

In addition, Bailes was accepted to give a podium presentation at the 2016 Sigma Theta Tau International Region 6 conference in Bossier City, Louisiana. The title of her presentation is “The Relationship between Registered Nurse Perceptions of Nursing Practice Environments and Patient Satisfaction of Nursing Care in Southern Academic Health Sciences Centers.”

## DNP student awarded reviewer status

DNP student Michelle Goreth was awarded Outstanding Reviewer Status, the top 10th percentile of reviewers, by the Journal of Pediatric Health Care. The journal provides clinical information and research findings regarding primary, acute and specialty health care for children of newborn age through young adulthood within a family centered context.

Additionally, Goreth was accepted to give a presentation at the Society of Trauma Nurses conference last spring. The society is a professional, nonprofit organization whose mission “is to ensure optimal trauma care to all people through initiatives focused on trauma nurses related to prevention, education and collaboration.”



Michelle Goreth

## BSN-PhD student gives presentation in North Korea



Jacob Crouch

Last fall, BSN-PhD student Jacob Crouch visited the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) in North Korea (DPRK) to give a presentation on telehealth and nursing. It was the third international conference at PUST and included speakers from England, the United States, South Korea, Brazil and the DPRK.

Crouch, a cardiac nurse at UMMC for five years, graduated from Mississippi College in 2010 and started the BSN-PhD program at UMMC last year. “I have a friend who is a teacher at PUST who encouraged me to apply,” Crouch said. “My paper was titled ‘Telehealth and Nursing in the Rural Community’ and gave a basic overview of the role and impact of telehealth for those in rural communities. I was very humbled to be chosen to speak at this conference, especially after realizing that one of the keynote speakers had won a Nobel Prize in chemistry while the other had been the science and technology advisor for the secretary of state.”

Crouch was given a 15-minute time slot with five minutes for questions from the DPRK students and other attendees. After being accepted by the conference, he

began the visa process, which took more than three months to finish. Crouch then went through about 25 DPRK agencies before being approved.

“I didn’t receive confirmation of my visa until two weeks before my plane left for Beijing (which was a little stressful to say the least),” he said. “As an American, you can only fly into the DPRK from Beijing, and there are only two airlines that fly into the DPRK at all. It was a very surreal experience flying into Korea on the DPRK airline. The entire hour of the flight, they played a patriotic musical show on the television screens of the

airplane. I flew in with a South Korean friend who would periodically blush and tell me that the songs that we were listening to were about killing the ‘American Imperialists.’ Needless to say, it was an interesting experience flying into the DPRK.”



Crouch tours the city of Pyongyang.

Crouch said “even though there is a very strong anti-American sentiment in the DPRK, I was treated very well. We were given tours through Pyongyang and [were] able to eat at some of the restaurants. We took the subways and walked the streets for a time. It was an extremely interesting place to visit. I was allowed to eat with the students for one meal and have some conversations after presentations, but the interactions were very limited. The major benefit of PUST is that the classes are all in English, so all of the students speak English fairly well.”

## PhD students, faculty attend SNRS annual meeting



*Some students and faculty attending the meeting are, front row from left, Jennifer Stephen, Katie Hall and Kayla Carr, back row from left, Pam Farris, Dr. Jennifer Robinson, Angie Duck, Denise Gipson, Dr. Kandy Smith and Carolann Risley.*

Ten PhD in Nursing students and three SON faculty members participated in the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) annual meeting earlier this year in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Thanks to generous support from Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the SON, and Dr. Joey Granger, dean of the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences, these individuals experienced several days of learning and networking with other nurse researchers from around the world.

The SNRS mission is to “advance nursing research.” After a lengthy peer-review process, four students – Pam Farris, Wren Hand, Katherine Rigdon and Kathy Rhodes – had their research accepted for presentations. Dr. Jennifer

Robinson and Dr. Mary Stewart co-authored posters with some of the students. Additionally, Dr. Anita Mitchell, a 2003 alumnus of the PhD program, presented her recent work at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Center.

According to its website, the Southern Nursing Research Society was founded in 1986 when 60 nurses met in Atlanta and debated the possibility of an organization for nursing researchers in the southern region. In 1987, SNRS was declared an independent organization. From 1992-93, several organizational procedures were streamlined and formalized; society archives were established and strategic planning was initiated.

There are 14 states in the society’s region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. In 1991, the boundaries were expanded to include the Caribbean, Latin America and the Bahamas.

## Sorority sisters share love of SON



*Lovato, left, and Vaughan show their Alpha Phi spirit outside the School of Nursing.*

In April, Alpha Phi sorority installed its Iota Omega chapter at Ole Miss. Among the founding members of the Alpha Phi chapter at Ole Miss are Lauren Lovato, junior Traditional BSN student; Lisa Vaughan, director of budget and finance; and Vaughan’s daughter, Sarah. During their formal initiation, Alpha Phi opened up the

membership to mothers and grandmothers of those who had never been initiated into a sorority. Vaughan was one of 22 who were initiated along with their daughters and granddaughters.

“It is such an honor to have been initiated into such a prestigious sorority alongside my daughter and nursing student Lauren Lovato, and [to] be considered a founding member,” said Vaughan. “We now share a lifelong bond of sisterhood. I love that Alpha Phi’s philanthropy is women’s heart health and that they are dedicated to advancing leadership development, encouraging academic excellence, improving women’s heart health, supporting sisters in need and educating about the value of philanthropy. All of their values go hand-in-hand with the mission and values of the SON. It is so good to see Lauren in the halls of the SON and know that we share a common bond.”

*...continued on page 12*

## School of Nursing adds two more Jonas Scholars



*Kayla Carr*



*Angie Duck*

Dr. Mary Stewart was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for two additional PhD Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars for 2016-

18. The SON matched that grant one-to-one, plus travel to the Jonas Scholar conference in Washington, D.C. This was Stewart's second successful Jonas application.

"We are pleased to be chosen to host two Jonas Scholars this year," said Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the SON. "Future nurse faculty leaders must be able to help students contribute to healthier patients and communities. This award allows the School of Nursing to support PhD students in developing leadership in academic-service partnerships aimed at improving population health."

Kayla Carr, PhD student and faculty instructor, was one of the 2016-18 Jonas recipients.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Jonas Scholar Program," Carr said. "Receiving tailored mentoring and leadership development like this is invaluable, and will help me build the foundation for a research trajectory focused on the unique health needs of Mississippi adolescents. The [SON] has invested so much in my desire to work with rural communities, from providing resources to complete research through the Barksdale Honors College as an undergraduate student, to helping me develop professionally through the PhD and Jonas Scholar programs. I am looking forward to the experience."

The other Jonas Scholar recipient was BSN-PhD student Angie Duck.

"I am honored to be chosen as a Jonas Scholar and wish to express my gratitude to the Jonas Center, AACN and the School of Nursing for this opportunity to enhance my academic and professional experience," said Duck. "I greatly appreciate [the] support in the furtherance of my education and I look forward to the many opportunities for leadership development and networking."

## SON, UMMC represented in D.C.

PhD student Kim Douglas represented the SON along with three other UMMC students in Washington, D.C. The Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA) hosted the students. The group met with the staff of Rep. Steven Palazzo, Rep. Trent Kelly, Rep. Benny Thompson, Rep. Greg Harper, Sen. Roger Wicker and Sen. Thad Cochran. In the meetings, students brought areas of concern regarding health care and education in Mississippi, which led to rich discussions about access to care and telehealth.

Rachel Gressett from OGA, Kristy Simms and Brian Rutledge, chief of staff in the vice chancellor's office accompanied the group and shared their experiences working in Washington. The students also were given a tour of the Capitol.

"I was so appreciative of the opportunity to represent the School of Nursing," said Douglas. "It was a great



*Touring the Appropriations Committee meeting room are, from left, Helen Turner (SOM), Ben Rudsenske (SOD), Taylor Sisson (SHRP) and Kim Douglas (SON).*

experience to share policy issues related to nursing and discuss issues related to other disciplines. I was also very impressed with the delegation staff and their knowledge of the issues here in Mississippi. We are well represented in Washington."

## 2016 Daisy Faculty Award winner (cont.)

Kirkendall said students are the next generation of nursing heroes. In today's fast-paced society, she said she enthusiastically wants to scream, "Slow down! Look around and see what an amazing opportunity you have been given!" She said even though times, methods, protocols and practices may change, the approach to nursing should not. "Our holistic approach to our patients and students is what sets this profession apart," Kirkendall said. "As an educator, I see every student as an awesome gift to further our purpose. Receiving the DAISY [Faculty] Award was a complete surprise. I was so honored to be nominated by my precious students. I can honestly say that I love each and every one. We all have a specific purpose and if I, in any way, can assist in nurturing that, then I have been given the greatest gift. I will never take that for granted."

While reading the history and purpose of the DAISY Foundation, Kirkendall said she was encouraged that the nursing mission is still alive and well. The care nurses provide patients may not be best represented in a skill performed or a medication given, but a heart affected. She said she believes nursing is founded on principles

like those of Florence Nightingale, who once stated, "I am certainly convinced that the greatest heroes are those who do their duty in the daily grind of domestic affairs whilst the world whirls as a maddening dreidel." "I am reminded that we, as nurses, have opportunities daily to be someone's hero," Kirkendall said. "The DAISY award is designed to honor nurses who go above and beyond and make extraordinary differences in patient and families' experiences in health care. I will strive to be the best example of this daily, and to instill these qualities into my students so that one day they will hopefully love this profession of nursing as much as I do — if that is possible."

Other nominations were received for part-time faculty Devinna Bahadur and Debrynda Davey and full-time faculty Jeanne Fortenberry Calcote, Tina Ferrell, Dr. Kate Fouquier, Dr. Lisa Haynie, Mary Jackson, Dr. Susan Lofton, Dr. Mary McNair, Dr. Molly Moore, Gaye Ragland, Dr. Jennifer Robinson and Dr. Jean Walker. All nominees received a Daisy Foundation faculty pin.

## Faculty member selected for NDMS leadership fellowship



*Dr. Carl Mangum, an associate professor, in the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center at the School of Nursing. (photo courtesy of Hinds Community College)*

He also was able to interact with headquarters staff and was assigned to a deployment working group. "It was an excellent experience, being able to see how headquarters works and how decisions are made at the top," Mangum said.

Mangum is team commander for Delta-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). The almost 40-member medical team is on call every three months to respond to national emergencies, including natural and man-made events. Delta-1 DMAT also can assist in National Security Special Events (NSSE) as needed.

Dr. Carl Mangum was selected for a two-week leadership fellowship with the Director of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) under the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Washington, D.C. Mangum was able to attend meetings with the ASPR and participate in a nationwide tabletop disaster exercise.



## PhD graduate serves overseas



Attached with the 10th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Forces, USAF are Capt. Wendy Lovelace Ray, SrA Brian Hernandez, Maj. Jennifer Harless, TSgt. Shannon Lunn and MSgt. Eric Granby. Hernandez and Granby are from the Delaware National Guard and Harless, Ray and Lunn from the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Multiple reasons made Dr. Wendy Lovelace Ray, instructor and PhD graduate, decide to commission as an officer in the U.S. Air Force (USAF). Most importantly was a strong duty to serve her country. Another inspiration was her uncle, who retired as a chief petty officer after serving 20 years of active service in the U.S. Navy. “He and his family were stationed all over the world,” Ray said. “I distinctly remember being reunited with him when I was about 10 years old. He was larger than life! His stories about his world travels made such an impression on me.”

Ray’s initial plan was to commission as an officer and become a flight nurse after finishing her BSN degree. However, after graduation she learned she would soon become a mother and decided to wait. When her son became a teenager, Ray felt the urge to go through with her original plan.

“I did research and learned that the USAF had a sign-on bonus for flight nurses,” Ray said. “At this time, I was enrolled as a doctoral student at UMMC [School of Nursing] and I could use the money for student tuition. After much prayer and consideration, I decided to go through with it.”

That was almost four years ago; she now serves as a flight nurse with the 183 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in Jackson.

“Presently, I am deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel,” Ray said. “This experience has been life-changing. I have learned so much and I continue to learn each time I fly as a nurse. Becoming a flight nurse has been the most challenging, yet rewarding, experience of my career as a nurse, thus far. I am truly honored to serve and care for our wounded service members and their families.”

## Bidwell completes 3-Peat



Bidwell, left, and Dr. Amber Arnold, nursing alumni president.

Dr. Josie Bidwell received the 2016 Alumnus of the Year award at the annual alumni meeting. The assistant professor was recognized for her service to the school and the Midtown community. In addition to serving as the clinical director at UNACARE Family Health Clinic, she heads a *Cook Right, Live Well* teaching kitchen that promotes healthy food selection and preparation for people with high blood pressure and diabetes. Bidwell joins fellow faculty Dr. Lisa Haynie (2014) and Dr. Audwin Fletcher (2015) in securing the 3-peat.

## Jackson Heart honors Wyatt



Dr. Sharon Wyatt



Nicole Wyatt

photo courtesy of Jackson Heart

The Jackson Heart Study (JHS) recently recognized the late Dr. Sharon Wyatt’s dedication and commitment to the study. A framed resolution of Wyatt’s accomplishments was presented to her daughter, Nicole, during the 2016 Community Monitoring Board meeting. Another copy of the framed resolution will be hung in the halls at JHS.

## Summer semester events from Oxford

Accelerated BSN students on the Oxford campus participated in student-driven, community health advocate (CHA) events during the summer semester. Health fairs took place at Larson’s Cash Savers, Panera Bread Company and the Oxford City Farmers Market. The fairs provided culturally appropriate health information, assisted individuals in identification and linkage to resources in the Oxford community, provided basic health screenings (blood pressure, blood glucose, BMI, etc.) and increased health literacy in the community.



Oxford Accelerated BSN students offered free health screenings for the community at Larson’s Cash Savers.



A group of students set up a health booth at the Oxford City Farmers Market and gave tips to promote a healthy lifestyle.



Earlier in the year, students presented a group research poster to faculty and guests. From left are Accelerated BSN students Alison Pedigo, Chase Henderson, Lila Hudson, James Bailey and Caroline Cheatham.



During the Lafayette/Oxford Relay for Life, RN-MSN and MSN students joined the Oxford Accelerated BSN students in providing education and health screenings before walking the night away to help end cancer.

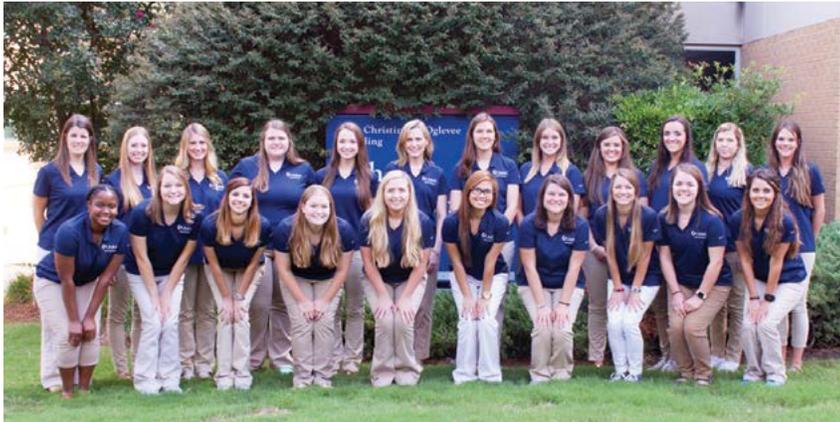


Before the academic year ends, nursing school culminates with a pinning ceremony marked by all BSN students, who receive their nursing pins in front of friends and family. Oxford Accelerated BSN student Chase Henderson, left, receives his nursing pin from Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing during the ceremony.



At the conclusion of the pinning ceremony, Dr. Kim Hoover and Sarah Elizabeth Wingate, front, Oxford Accelerated BSN class representative, lead the students in reciting the Nightingale Pledge. All nurses in attendance joined in the pledge honoring Florence Nightingale and her work towards the nursing profession.

Welcome to the 2016-17 School of Nursing student ambassadors



2016-17 Ambassadors include front row, from left, Lovel Lockhart, Megan Christy, Ellen Husbands, Shelbie Flores, Regan Hunt, Shairah Hortelano, Brittany Stamper, Camryn Miller, Abi Collins, Lauren Walker and back row, from left, Megan Bauerle, Lauren Cannon, Hannah Hautle, Courtney Ables, Sarah Beth Gross, Susan Smith, Lauren Ashworth, Makenzie Rowzee, Kellie Hartzog, Kaysie Childress, Lindsay Entrekin and Brielle Richardson.

CAMP RAINBOW DIABETES WALK  
 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MERCY  
 UMMC HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER DELTA  
 SUSAN G. KOMAN RACE FOR A CURE CAMP  
 ALZHEIMER'S WALK GRACE HOUSE KANDU  
 GRANT'S FERRY RELAY FOR LIFE  
 HEALTH FAIR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
 MRA SCIENCE FAIR FITNESS FEST MARCH OF DIMES  
 CAMP BLUEBIRD BLOOD DRIVES MAKE A WISH  
 JOHNSON ELEMENTARY NIGHT OUT HEART  
**26,968** hours valued at  
**\$635,361**  
 1 CAMPUS 1 COMMUNITY IHL HEALTH FAIR  
 ROSA SCOTT HEALTH FAIR BROWN ELEMENTARY  
 MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER WALK SIDS WALK  
 DISCOVER NURSING DAY  
 ELIZA PILLIARS HEALTH FAIR  
 MS MASN 4 LEAF K  
 WALK

Faculty, staff and students have  
 logged in more than 6,800  
 hours valued at more than  
 \$171,800 since January 2016.



To see what the School of Nursing is doing in the community, visit <https://givegab.com/universities/university-of-mississippi-medical-center-school-of-nursing>.

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle*

**Submitted by Farrah Banks, director of student affairs and service learning:**

Preparing students to become nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse educators, nurse administrators and a host of other nursing professionals is not an easy task; however, the faculty and staff here at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing are the best of the best, and they personify the importance of the quote above through the art of teaching. I am so thrilled for the opportunity to join the SON as director of student affairs and service learning. Our office is committed to upholding the established mission of serving others through continued contributions from students, faculty and staff in service learning. Our service-learning hours continue to grow each semester. Students have participated in a number of events already this year, such as the UMMC Grants Ferry Health Fest and the UMMC Fitness Fest; and this year, we are proud to say that the SON submitted the largest school donation to the March of Dimes (MOD). MOD fundraising efforts were led by Jeanne Fortenberry Calcote, assistant professor of nursing; Ryan Williams, 2017 senior class president; and Libby Dove, Traditional BSN graduate, who together organized a silent auction. Because of the great efforts of our captains, the school was awarded a night with the M-Braves. That is only one of the many examples I could share about our volunteer efforts. I am so glad that the SON is continuing to lead the way in service learning for UMMC.

Since my arrival in January, I have committed myself to making the transition seamless for all of our students, faculty and staff. The Office of Student Affairs continues to move forward after being under such great leadership for the last five years. I have huge shoes to fill, but I am committed and ready for the rewarding opportunity to continue to be a part of the SON family. I look forward to working with everyone here at the SON and UMMC, but most of all I look forward to being here for many years to come.

## What's happening with the Mercy Delta Express Project



*Dr. Lisa Haynie, third from left, and Dr. Robert Brodell, center, chairman of dermatology, visit with dermatology staff before the first Derm Day at South Delta High School. The staff was able to see 20 students in clinic that day.*

The Mercy Delta Express Project (MDEP) and the Delta Teen Wellness Project (DTWP) are part of the larger community engagement and practice effort led by the School of Nursing. The projects focus not only on health screenings and episodic care, but also include age-appropriate health education for all students, parents, faculty and staff at Ripley Blackwell Head Start, South Delta Elementary, South Delta Middle School and South Delta High School (SDHS). Our newest clinic at the high school, a direct result of DTWP, began offering full services to students in August 2015.

Additionally, the SON received an HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Grant (D09HP28688) to educate advanced-practice nurses as leaders of interprofessional

teams in the delivery of mental health services in primary-care clinics and via telehealth. This program was implemented successfully at SDHS beginning in February 2016 and will be available to other SON-managed school-based clinics in the Mississippi Delta later this school year. The MDEP/DTWP also partnered with the Department of Dermatology to offer dermatological services starting April 2016 and has continued every third Monday of the month with great success. The SON clinics are partnering with the Department of Pediatric Infectious Disease (Dr. Charlotte Hobbs and Dr. Brian Kirmse) to conduct a National Institutes of Health-funded research study investigating "Parasitic Infections of Children Living in the Mississippi Delta." This study will determine if parasitic infections in children lead to blood disorders, asthma and other chronic illnesses commonly seen in the Delta region.

The MDEP and the DTWP-practice sites continue to provide a unique interprofessional clinical experience for nursing students, advanced-practice nursing students, medical and other professional students in a medically underserved, rural health setting.

Future plans include expanding telehealth services to include pediatric asthma and allergy, pediatric cardiology and adolescent medicine; and broadening our reach in the community by collaborating with the American Heart Association, Sharkey-Issaquena Health Network, Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital and Mississippi Strategic Health Information Network Expansion (SHINE).

## Sorority sisters (cont.)

"It's a very cool thing to have a sorority sister here with me," said Lovato. "Because this year is our first year for our chapter of Alpha Phi, none of my sisters from Ole Miss are here with me. Having Mrs. Vaughan here is so great because I don't feel alone in that regard. She's offered me so much advice and comfort and told me at our initiation that if I ever need a place to go for help or just to talk, that I could come to her office. That made me feel so secure, especially when I first got here and was less certain of what I was doing. I'm so glad I met the Vaughans through Alpha Phi, and I'm even [happier] to see Mrs. Vaughan around [campus everyday]!"

## Service pins awarded

With the start of a new academic year, 13 faculty and staff were awarded service pins, including Dr. Robin Wilkerson for 35 years and Antonio Tate for 25 years. Dr. Lisa Haynie and Dr. Laree Hiser were recognized for 20 years. Dr. Anne Norwood, Dr. Nikki Pittman and Dr. Eva Tatum were awarded with 15-year pins. Sherri Franklin, Dr. Kate Fouquier, Teresa Jones, Marlie Lawrence, Dr. Robyn MacSorley and Lesley Thweatt were all recognized for five years of service.