



# vital signs

## In this issue:

### News You Can Use

#### Kudos

Students Recognized	4
Nearly 200 Pinned	4
Journal Club Meeting	5
Recruiter Awarded Grant	5
Dean's Scholarship	5
CBMI Scholarship Awarded	5
Record Number Graduates	6
STT Fall Induction	6
Student Leaders Elected	6

#### Faculty Feats

New NED Director	7
Lee Presents Research	7
Honor Code Signing	7
Clinics Receive Grants	8
APHA Healthography	8
Final Cohort of NCIN	8
Key UMMC Appointments	9
NP Certifications	9
Wilkerson Receives Grant	9
Service Pins Awarded	9

#### Spotlight on Service

SON Fundraisers	10
Health Screening	10
Service Impact	11
Camp Rainbow Counselor	11
Alzheimer's Walk	11

#### Semester in Review

New Faculty	12
Cat Cora Visits SON	12

## PMHNP Grad's Labor of Love Becomes Opportunity for Legislation and Increased Alzheimer's Awareness

**"I can still remember** my very first assignment to care for a patient with a mental illness in nursing school 16 years ago," said Amy Easley, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) graduate. "It was scary, exciting and challenging, to say the least.

"However, I will always remember the feeling I had when the patient took my hand and told me, 'Thanks for spending time with me. Everyone mostly avoids me because I'm crazy.' The experience touched me like nothing else in my nursing career has ever done, even to this day."

After stints in the medical/surgical unit, newborn nursery, labor and delivery, endoscopy and surgery, Easley has now found her calling—in inpatient medical/surgical and behavioral psychiatry.

"One of the most rewarding and sacred callings that we as nurses have is to be advocates for our patients," she said. "I feel that psychiatric/mental health patients have the greatest need for



*Dr. Cindy Luther, left, director of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner tracks; Patty Dunn, center, executive director of the Mississippi chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; and PMHNP graduate Amy Easley display the proclamation Gov. Phil Bryant signed July 2 in support of people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.*

someone to advocate for them."

**"One of the most rewarding and sacred callings that we as nurses have is to be advocates for our patients."**

*- Amy Easley*

Easley, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology and bachelor's and

master's degrees in nursing, graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in August 2014 with a master's degree in the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty. She is the charge nurse on the University of Mississippi Medical Center's 7 East/7 West Adult Inpatient Psychiatry floor and was the May 2014 recipient of a DAISY Award for extraordinary nursing care.

*...continued on page 2*

## PMHNP Grad's Labor of Love Becomes Opportunity (cont.)



Amy Easley

"Amy consistently treats 7 East/7 West patients with the utmost care and respect," Easley's DAISY nomination said. "Frequently, Amy has spa days for some of our patients, which includes manicures with polish and facials. She not only addresses their medical and psychiatric needs, but addresses their most basic needs as a human, which is often lost for psychiatric patients. She

gets the patients involved in group exercise classes and other activities to help them deal with daily life events that can be overwhelming for some of our patients.

definitely more support and information for families now, but we as a health-care system must keep striving to improve the care we give to patients and their families as they deal with this devastating illness."

**As the sixth-leading cause of death** in the United States—more than prostate cancer and breast cancer combined—Alzheimer's disease is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed, Easley said. An estimated 5.2 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, including 200,000 younger than 65, and more than a half-million people die each year from the disease.

"She is more than a charge nurse. She is the most dedicated patient advocate I've had the pleasure to work with."

*"The experience touched me like nothing else in my nursing career has ever done, even to this day."*

- Amy Easley

So when the opportunity arose to raise awareness and affect legislation at the state level, Easley—along with PMHNP track director Dr. Cindy Luther and a

**Easley's interests in patient advocacy** and her own family's medical history of dementia fueled her passion for raising awareness.

team of volunteers from the Mississippi chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Department of Mental Health, UMMC Mind Center and family physicians, specialists, caregivers, educators and dementia patients from across the state—began drafting the Mississippi State Strategic Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

When her grandmother developed Alzheimer's disease, Easley saw firsthand the struggles of providing 24/7 care to a loved one while trying to balance work and family obligations. When her mother developed the same disease five years ago, "the heartbreak was tremendous," she said.

"The purpose of developing such a plan is to address the enormous social, emotional and economic impact of dementia and the needs of individuals and families impacted by the disease in Mississippi," Easley said. "The plan will help drive decision making and raise awareness to the unique needs and struggles of individuals and families living with dementia." *...continued on page 11*

"I reached out to the Alzheimer's Association for help and joined a support group," said Easley. "There is

### 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.

School of Nursing  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
2500 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39216-4505  
(601) 984-6200  
<http://www.umc.edu/son>

**Dean**  
Dr. Kim Hoover  
**Editor & Writer**  
Kim Ferguson  
**Designer & Photographer**  
Amy Robertson

Connect with us:



/UMMCSchoolofNursing

Read the latest SON news:



[www.umc.edu/son/news/](http://www.umc.edu/son/news/)

*"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 life-long learning; and highly qualified, expert faculty."*

## Alumni Happenings



*Michelle Burns*

Fellow Alumni:

On behalf of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing alumni chapter, I would like to thank each of you for supporting our school. Our alumni live up to the school's mission to develop nurse leaders and improve health within and beyond Mississippi. I am constantly amazed at the energy, enthusiasm and innovation of the nurses and nursing students I am surrounded by each day. You are truly incredible, and you do make a positive difference.

We have had several social functions and class celebrations during the past year. In 2014, our annual meeting and Oglevee Papers Day highlighted research of some of our recent DNP graduates. My personal favorite was the opportunity to meet and visit with the alumni of the Class of 1965. Amazingly, this group has remained friends and stayed in contact all these years. The majority of their class came from across the U.S. to have a reunion in April, and oh, the stories they could tell!

I would like to answer a few frequently asked questions about the alumni association.

**Q. How much are the dues?**

**A. Membership in the nursing alumni chapter is free.**

**Q. Who can come to the annual meeting?**

**A. All are invited and encouraged to attend.**

**Q. If it's not my class anniversary/reunion year, can I come to functions?**

**A. Yes, all classes, regardless of graduation year, are invited. The more, the merrier!**

**Q. How can I stay in touch and up to date?**

**A. Visit [www.umc.edu/son](http://www.umc.edu/son) or [www.umc.edu/alumni](http://www.umc.edu/alumni). Follow us on Facebook. Call us at (601) 984-1115 or email [alumni@umc.edu](mailto:alumni@umc.edu). All are great ways to stay in the loop.**

**Q. How can I update my contact information?**

**A. Email [alumni@umc.edu](mailto:alumni@umc.edu) or call the alumni office at (601) 984-1115.**

Our School of Nursing has a rich heritage and includes an elite group of students, alumni and faculty. I encourage each of you to stay in touch with the happenings of the school and be involved as much as you can. Thank you for all you do. I am honored to serve you.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Burns, MSN, RN  
Nursing Alumni President, 2013-2015  
Class of 1998 (RN-BSN) and Class of 2008 (MSN)

## Upcoming Events

**Student Leadership Retreat**

Saturday, Sept. 20

**\*Med/Surg Conference**

Friday, September 26

**Ignite Career Fair**

Wednesday, October 8

**MNA Convention**

Tuesday - Friday,  
October 21-24

**\*Diabetes Conference**

Thursday - Friday,  
November 6-7

**Professionalism Workshop**

Wednesday, Nov. 12

**Fall Break Begins**

Monday, November 24

**Fall Term Ends**

Saturday, December 13

**Christmas Holiday**

Wednesday - Thursday,  
December 24-25

**New Year's Holiday**

Thursday, January 1

**BSN/RN-BSN Classes Begin**

Monday, January 5

**DNP/PhD Classes Begin**

Thursday, January 8

**RN-MSN/MSN Classes Begin**

Friday, January 9

\*For more information about these Continuing Education events, please visit <http://www.umc.edu/son/CE/>.

## Doctoral Students' Professional Achievements Recognized



Joy Akanji

DNP student **Joy Akanji** received the University of Mississippi Medical Center's 2014 Non-Traditional Nurse of the Year Award at the May 5 Excellence in Nursing Awards Ceremony. Akanji serves as a hospital educator and chairs several hospital-wide committees, including the Nursing Clinical Policies Sub-Council and the TIGR Patient Education Committee. She also chairs the hospital's community outreach program and "Just in Time" training.

**Terri Gillespie**, School of Nursing MSN graduate and current DNP student, assumed the role of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's chief nursing executive officer Sept. 1. With more than 29 years of nursing experience, including stints as a staff nurse in the emergency department, nurse manager in the SICU/PACU, clinical director of adult critical care and operations director of the eICU, Gillespie also brings experience as chief nursing and clinical services officer for Children's of Mississippi.



Terri Gillespie

Also effective Sept. 1 was PhD student **Jonathan Wilson's** appointment as UMMC chief administrative officer. In his new role, Wilson oversees the Departments of Campus Police and Security, Physical Facilities, Safety, Transport Services and Disaster Management. He has served as the Medical Center's director of emergency services for the past three years. Wilson received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing.



Jonathan Wilson

## Nearly 200 Students Pinned at May 22 Ceremony

On May 22, 185 graduate and undergraduate students gathered at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson to celebrate the end of their academic journeys and, for many, the beginning of their careers as registered nurses. At the School of Nursing's annual Pinning Ceremony, students from the school's eight degree programs received a lapel pin commemorating their time at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. Following a welcome by Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, and an invocation by University of Mississippi Medical Center Chaplain Doris Whitaker, Shelby Sirmon, nursing student body president, introduced keynote speaker Rosalyn Howard, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation. After Howard's address to the graduates, class president Brennan Williams offered a special acknowledgement on behalf of the Class of 2014. Then, the graduates marched forward as their names were called to receive their School of Nursing pins and recite the Nightingale Pledge.



Following the pinning, all 185 graduate and undergraduate students recite the Nightingale Pledge in unison, promising to uphold the highest level of professionalism in nursing practice.



Dr. Kim Hoover, left, dean of the School of Nursing, pins BSN student Jordan Parker while Dr. Marcia Rachel, associate dean of academic affairs, pins BSN student Ashley Rhodes.

## UMMC and USM PhD Students Convene at Journal Club Meeting



From left to right, PhD students Michael Parnell, Danny Vining, Pam Farris, Jennifer Stephen, Michelle Burns, Katherine Rigdon, Angela Duck and Karen Arrant were among the doctoral students who presented posters of their work at the annual journal club meeting June 5 at the University of Southern Mississippi.

On June 5, 10 School of Nursing PhD students attended the Doctoral Seminar Day at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Each student presented a poster of his or her work. Pam Farris was recognized as “best poster” from a University of Mississippi PhD student. Joining the School of Nursing PhD students and faculty were doctoral students and faculty from USM.

This year’s seminar theme was “Scholarship Opportunities for Application of Research (SOAR),” and speakers presented topics related to nursing theory and its application in research. Speakers included Dr. Christina Seiloff from Montana State University; Dr. Mary Louanne Friend from the Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama; Dr. Mona Newsome Wicks from the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center; and Dr. Lynn Langley from the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

The School of Nursing will host the next Doctoral Seminar Day, slated for June 11, 2015.

## Community Foundation of Jackson Awards Grant to Ferguson

Kim Ferguson, senior student recruiter, received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson for a community-outreach project targeting elementary-age children. The grant monies will be used to educate children about the role that nurses play and to promote healthy lifestyles. The project, “Excite, Empower, Educate: How to Become an RN,” will focus on children in the Jackson-metro area primarily, but also will work in tandem with efforts taking place at the School of Nursing’s school-based clinics in the Mississippi Delta.

### PhD Student Receives 2014-15 Dean’s Scholarship



Kayla Carr

Kayla Carr, instructor in nursing, received the 2014 Dean’s Scholarship. Carr, a PhD student, teaches in the school’s Accelerated BSN program. Since 2011, she has practiced as a family nurse practitioner in the Mississippi Delta as part of the School of Nursing’s Mercy Delta Express Project. Her research interests include innovations in global and rural health-care systems, access to health care for vulnerable populations and school-based health centers as interprofessional learning environments.

### Business Operations Director Receives Scholarship



Lisa Vaughan

For the second consecutive year, Lisa Vaughan, School of Nursing business operations director, received a scholarship from the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers to attend the College Business Management Institute. Only 12 scholarships are awarded each year. The institute offers an intensive course of study in business and financial management for administrators of colleges and universities, and more than 500 individuals representing hundreds of colleges and universities attend. This year, the conference took place in Lexington, Ky.

## Record Number of Students Graduate from School of Nursing

May 23 saw a record-number of students graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. A total of 324 graduate and undergraduate students received nursing degrees at the annual Commencement, including 256 receiving the BSN, 61 receiving the MSN, six receiving the DNP and one receiving the PhD. School of Nursing graduates accounted for 43 percent of the 846 graduates from across campus who received degrees in May.



*Brennan Williams, 2014 Traditional BSN graduate, receives the School of Nursing's Christine L. Oglevee Award for most outstanding BSN graduate from Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, at the May 23 Commencement.*



*With record-breaking numbers of students enrolling in School of Nursing graduate and undergraduate programs, the amount of graduates is also increasing. The nursing school represented 43 percent of the total number of May Medical Center graduates.*

## Sigma Theta Tau Hosts Fall Induction Ceremony

On Aug. 4, 16 students were inducted into the Theta Beta chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society: Christina Cummings, Caitlin Dennis, Carrie Foxworth, Abby Hoover, Nicholas Irons, Beverly Livingston, Kimberly Maddox, April Martin, Samuel McCullough, Lisa Moulds, Etoile Patrick, Julie Shepard, Molly Sullivan, Ellen Thompson, Wanda Vancil and Pamela Watts. Sigma Theta Tau recognizes superior achievement and the development of leadership qualities; fosters high professional standards; encourages creative work; and strengthens commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.



*RN-BSN student Nicholas Irons is pinned by Jennifer Hargett at the Aug.4 induction ceremony.*

## NSB and Class Officers Elected

Congratulations to the students who were elected to Nursing Student Body positions: Georgia Hart Smith, president; Davelin Woodward, vice-president; Shellie Monroe Lewis, secretary; Connor Fairchild, parliamentarian; Kendra Redding, treasurer; and Jessica Smith and Ashley Trussell, Accelerated BSN representatives. Junior class officers include Sarah Tolan, president; Morgan Corder, vice-president; Molly Morris, secretary; Libby Dove, treasurer; and Jalisa Williams, reporter. Senior class officers include Robbye Anne Lee, president; Callie Brown, vice-president; Nicole Boyd, treasurer; Hannah Allen, secretary; and Johnny Morris, reporter.

## Williams Named Director of Nurse Educator Track



Dr. Ellen Williams

Dr. Ellen Williams, associate professor of nursing, has been appointed director of the master’s program Nurse Educator track. Her clinical experience includes psychiatric, emergency and med/ surg nursing, and she has more than 15 years of nursing education experience, most recently as dean of nursing at Northwest Mississippi Community College. She also has served as chief nursing officer of Senatobia Hospital.

“As a member of the Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing, Ellen was instrumental in the development of the new Mississippi Competency Model and other statewide initiatives,” said Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing. “She served in leadership roles on the council and developed a strong network of colleagues across the state.”

## Lee Presents Dissertation Research at National Symposium

Lishia Lee, assistant professor of nursing, presented a poster, “Effects of Metformin and Insulin on H9c2 Rat Cardiomyocytes in Cell Culture with Elevated Glucose Levels,” at the 51st annual Rocky Mountain Bioengineering Symposium in Denver in April. Lee took home second place for her poster. Fellow faculty members Jill White and Keith Brown also presented at this conference.

## Sept. 10 Honor Code Signing Promotes Accountability, Humanism



Dr. LaDonna Northington

Recognizing the power of accountability and the importance of honorable and ethical behavior, a group of undergraduate students began laying the groundwork for the school’s inaugural honor code in 2011.

While many of the students who initiated the code’s drafting have long since graduated, new Traditional and Accelerated BSN students now participate in an honor code signing each fall. At this ceremony, students promise to uphold the values embedded in the code—and in the culture of the School of Nursing: excellence in practice, diversity in thought, unselfish devotion to the welfare of others, respect, honesty and accountability.

“Advancing the institutional QEP of professionalism, School of Nursing students took leadership in the development of the Code of Honorable and Professional Behavior, which is reflective of the ethics of the profession of nursing,” said Tammy Dempsey, director of student affairs and service learning.

“The code and the signing empower students to identify themselves and their student colleagues as professionals held to the same level of accountability. As a result, students internalize that ‘Professionalism begins with me and extends outward,’ and transition from the role of student to professional.”

This year, in addition to signing the code itself, thanks to a grant received by Dr. LaDonna Northington, professor of nursing and director of the Traditional BSN program, students received a humanism pin to serve as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to provide compassionate and high-quality care.

A new partnership between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation resulted in the \$3,000 grant, which will be used to “promote best practices in compassionate and humanistic care and to recognize exemplars among nurse educators, practitioners and students,” according to an AACN news release.

The honor code signing took place Sept. 10, at the Jackson Medical Mall Conference Center. A reception followed.



## Department of Education Awards Grants to School-based Clinics

The Mississippi Department of Education awarded \$750,000 in grant funds to the School of Nursing's school-based clinics in Jackson and the Mississippi Delta. Dr. Anne Norwood, professor of nursing and director of the three Jackson school-based clinics at Johnson Elementary, Brown Elementary and Rowan Middle School, received \$500,000. Dr. Lisa Haynie, professor of nursing and director of the Mercy Delta Express Project and school-based clinics in South Delta Middle School, South Delta Elementary School and Ripley-Blackwell Head Start Center, was awarded a \$250,000 grant.



*Dr. Anne Norwood, professor of nursing and director of the Jackson school-based clinics, speaks to a group of Johnson Elementary students about healthy eating using a garden-based learning methodology.*



*The beneficiaries of the \$250,000 grant that Dr. Lisa Haynie, right, professor of nursing and director of the Mercy Delta Express Project, received are the children at the three school-based clinics where she currently sees patients.*

## Faculty Member Lends Expertise to APHA Healthography Meeting



Dr. Fazlay Faruque, professor of nursing and director of the GIS and Remote Sensing program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is co-organizing an oral and roundtable scientific session at the annual American Public Health Association meeting in New Orleans. The meeting, "Healthography: How Where You Live Affects Your Health and Well-being," will draw more than 12,000 public health professionals from across the world and include Faruque's session, "International Innovations in Geoscience and Healthography," which is scheduled for Nov. 18. Faruque's research interests include geographic health disparities, air pollution modeling using satellite data and spatial epidemiology.

*Dr. Fazlay Faruque*

## SON among Final Cohort of New Careers in Nursing Program

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation disbursed its final award to 52 schools of nursing in the United States. Under the leadership of Accelerated BSN Director Dr. Tina Martin, the University of Mississippi School of Nursing was the only school in Mississippi to receive funding from the RWJF New Careers in Nursing program. Grant money supports traditionally underrepresented students who have earned degrees in other fields and make career changes to nursing. Specifically, the RWJF and American Association of Colleges of Nursing program aims to recruit a more diverse nursing workforce while providing leadership, mentorship and financial support to deserving students in accelerated nursing programs. Award recipients, who will be named later this month, will each receive \$10,000 scholarships.



*Dr. Tina Martin*



## Faculty Members Appointed to Key UMMC Leadership Roles



**Dr. Kristi Henderson**, associate professor of nursing, has been appointed chief telehealth and innovation officer for the University of Mississippi Medical Center. In this role, she will focus on growing and adding services in the UMMC Center for Telehealth. Henderson received an MSN from the Mississippi University for Women as a family nurse practitioner, followed by a post-master's certificate in the acute care nurse practitioner role from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. She received a DNP from the University of Alabama in 2010.

*Dr. Kristi Henderson*



*Dr. Chris Powe*

**Dr. Chris Powe**, assistant professor of nursing, has been appointed UMMC

chief advanced practice officer. Powe will provide support and professional oversight of the hospitals' and clinics' advanced-practice faculty and staff. Powe, who also serves as a lieutenant colonel in the Mississippi Air National Guard 172 Airlift Wing, has an MSN in the acute care nurse practitioner role and a PhD in clinical health sciences.

## Faculty Members Receive NP Certifications



*Mary Jackson*

**Mary Jackson**, instructor in nursing, successfully completed her Family Nurse Practitioner boards. Jackson, who has served as a clinical instructor in the School of Nursing since 2012, has an associate degree in nursing from the Mississippi University for Women, a BSN and MSN in nursing education from Chamberlain College of Nursing and a Family Nurse Practitioner post-master's certificate from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. Jackson's nursing experience includes time spent in both emergency nursing and critical care. She is a Certified Emergency Nurse, a Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse and a Trauma Nursing Core Course instructor.



*Dr. Carl Mangum*

**Dr. Carl Mangum**, associate professor of nursing and emergency preparedness and response specialist, can now add the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner credentials behind his name. Mangum, who has been teaching at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing for more than a decade, is a Certified Volunteer Firefighter and HAZMAT technician. He also serves as the commander for the Mississippi-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team from the National Disaster Medical System. In addition to a post-master's certificate in the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty, Mangum received an associate degree in nursing from Hinds Community College, a BSN and a MSN in nursing education from the University of Mississippi and a PhD in nursing leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Wilkerson Receives \$1.13 Million HRSA Grant

Dr. Robin Wilkerson, professor of nursing and director of the RN-MSN and Oxford Accelerated BSN programs, received a \$1.13 million grant over three years from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for her project, "Mississippi Accelerated DNP Pathways Integrating Interprofessional Education." Co-project directors are Dr. Tina Martin and Dr. Barbara Boss.

## Faculty and Staff Receive Medical Center Service Pins

Congratulations to the faculty and staff who received service pins this quarter, including Lishia Lee, assistant professor of nursing, who was recognized for 15 years of service. Martha Flowerday, executive assistant to the dean, was honored for five years of service, and Dr. Barbara Boss, professor of nursing and director of the school's DNP program, received her pin for 35 years of service to the school and Medical Center.

## SON Fundraisers Benefit Family Assistance Program

In the midst of the first semester of nursing school and intensive health assessment and pathophysiology courses, 30 Accelerated BSN students put away the books long enough to organize a fundraiser for the Mississippi Children's Family Assistance Program, which assists families who find themselves in need while caring for a hospitalized child. Headed by student Swayze Swindle, the students designed and sold T-shirts, raising more than \$280 for much-needed personal care items, clothes, hotel rooms and other expenses that arise when families unexpectedly find themselves away from home with an ill child.

In June, the School of Nursing "Tate and the Tots" UMMC Leadership Development Program team, made up of School of Nursing faculty and staff, participated in a bowling benefit for the Mississippi Children's Family Assistance Program. Team members Robyn MacSorley, Tammy Dempsey, Dr. Kate Fouquier, Antonio Tate and Dr. Jennifer Robinson raised approximately \$900 in donations and pledges. The team also took home prizes for "Queen of the Gutterballs," "Other Team's Secret Weapon" for lowest score, "King Pen" for highest score and "Best Team Theme." Collectively, all UMMC LDP teams raised \$1,300 for the Mississippi Children's Family Assistance Program.



*Pictured with the Class of 2015 are Shannon Wentz, administrator for quality and ancillary services; Heather Nelson, social work supervisor; and Dr. Phyllis Bishop, children's hospital chief medical officer.*



*"Tate and the Tots" members Dr. Jennifer Robinson, Tammy Dempsey, Antonio Tate, Robyn MacSorley and Dr. Kate Fouquier raised more than \$900 for the Mississippi Children's Family Assistance Program.*

## Juniors Use New Skills at Screening



*First-year School of Nursing students visited the Walter Sillers Building on June 16, offering free health screening and blood-pressure checks. The visit marked the first opportunity for the new students to take their new skills out into the community.*

**SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT**

**200** service learning activities

relay for life, camp rainbow, boys and girls club, alzheimer's walk, habitat for humanity, mercy delta, march of dimes, IC IC, grace house discover nursing day, health fairs

value of total hours during the 2013-2014 academic year

**\$160,579**

**7,121** hours logged

**1,023** members

**UMMC**  
School of Nursing

*\*\* To learn is to serve. To serve is to learn. \*\**

All 920 SON graduate and undergraduate students participate in at least eight hours of service-learning activities each year.

**Most students exceed this number.**

## Graduate Student Volunteers as Counselor at Camp Rainbow



Brandi Smith  
MSN FNP student

For the past two summers, MSN Family Nurse Practitioner student Brandi Smith has donated her time and energy to Camp Rainbow, a five-day camp dedicated to Mississippi pediatric cancer patients and survivors between the ages of 6 and 17. The camp, which is headed up by the Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation in tandem with the Blair E. Batson Children's Cancer Clinic, takes place annually at Camp Henry S. Jacobs in Utica.

According to the camp's website, "The positive impact that camp has upon the kids is everlasting. Children who will never be able to walk can fly among the trees on a zip line or swing through the sky on the ropes course. Children who will never be able to play sports due to the removal of organs or aggressive treatment are able to kick a soccer ball or play basketball with other kids. Camp offers kids five days of normalcy and an opportunity to connect with others who have experienced the same circumstances."

From June 6 through June 11, Smith volunteered as a camp counselor with the 10-to-13-year-old girls. "We woke up at 6 a.m. and had fun until 10 p.m. every single day," she said. "Ropes, canoeing, archery, painting, crafts, field day, swimming, kayaking and just hanging out. At camp, I'm not a nurse; I'm a counselor."

Smith, who works as a recovery room nurse at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, said, "As the 2013 camp came to a close, one of my campers said, 'Now that you're a part of the Camp Rainbow family, you have to come back next year.' So June 2014, I went to camp, and I plan to go to camp for many years to come."

## PMHNP Grad's Labor of Love Becomes Opportunity (cont.)

**There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease** and no magic pill for treating its symptoms, and every 67 seconds, an American develops the disease, she said.

"As health care advances and people live longer, the problem is only going to get worse," Easley said. "In 2014, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer's will total an estimated \$214 billion, including \$150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. At this rate, Alzheimer's will cost an estimated \$1.2 trillion in 2015. We need a plan."

While federal funding for Alzheimer's research, education, outreach and caregiver support increased more than ever, more help is needed, she said.

**"Everyone can get involved** with raising awareness and making a difference.

"First and foremost, as health-care providers, we need to educate ourselves so that we can share our knowledge with our patients and their families," she said. "Also, become an advocate for patients and families that you

will come in contact with who need help. Directing them to a local support group through the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) can be a lifeline for families who are struggling with the disease."

### Featured Service Opportunity

#### Walk to End Alzheimer's Rocking the Walk

When: Saturday, Sept. 13

Registration: 9 a.m.

Walk: 10 a.m.

Route length: 3 miles

Where: Mississippi Museum of Art (380 South Lamar Street, Jackson, MS 39201)

Registration fee: Free

For more information, visit <http://alz.org/ms>.

To join the School of Nursing team, log into GiveGab for more details.

## School of Nursing Welcomes 17 New Faculty Members



Seventeen new faculty members have joined the School of Nursing ranks: (front row, left to right) Jennifer Hargett, instructor in nursing; Kim Douglas, instructor in nursing; Sherri Franklin, assistant professor of nursing; Kristi Wilson, Clinical Simulation Center instructor in nursing; Dr. Robin Christian, associate professor of nursing; (back row, left to right) Tina Higgins, assistant professor of nursing; Mary Jackson, instructor in nursing; Dr. Sharon McElwain, instructor in nursing; Monica White, instructor in nursing; Heather Coats, instructor in nursing; and

Jeanne Fortenberry, assistant professor of nursing. Not pictured are Kayla Carr, instructor in nursing; Dr. Janet Harris, professor of nursing and associate dean for practice and community engagement; Dr. Betsy Mann, assistant professor of nursing; Kathy Rhodes, instructor in nursing; Lesley Thweatt, Clinical Skills and Simulation Center instructor in nursing; and Dr. Ellen Williams, associate professor of nursing and Nurse Educator track director.

## Iron Chef Cat Cora Visits School of Nursing

In honor of the “family business” and both her mother and grandmother’s decades of service to the nursing profession, celebrity chef Cat Cora hosted a philanthropic culinary event Aug. 19, with proceeds benefitting a University of Mississippi School of Nursing scholarship fund.

To bring attention to the Mississippi Culanthropy fundraiser, the Food Network star visited the school where her mother, Dr. Virginia Cora, professor emeritus, taught nursing students for more than 20 years. During the Iron Chef’s visit to the School of Nursing on Aug. 18, students and faculty highlighted the newly renovated simulation and skills labs, while demonstrating the capabilities of the high- and low-fidelity manikins.



*Cat Cora, center, holds a simulation baby, as (first row from left) Callie Brown and instructor Kristi Wilson; (second row, from left) instructor Kim Douglas, Robbye Anne Lee, Erica Simmons, Eliza Inman, Carsyn Byars; (back row, from left) instructor Monica White, Connor Fairchild, instructor Robyn MacSorley and instructor Jennifer Hargett look on.*



*Dr. Virginia Cora, left, stands in front of her Guardian Society plaque, as the media interview her and her daughter Cat Cora about the Mississippi Culanthropy fundraiser.*



*Dr. Jan Cooper, right, associate professor of nursing and director of the Clinical Simulation Center, talks to Cat Cora during a visit to the school’s lab Aug. 18.*