



School of Nursing

The University of  
Mississippi Medical Center

Spring 2014

# vital signs

Volume 3: Issue 6

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## SON Pilots 'Augmented Reality,' Leads Multi-disciplinary Discussion on Patient-centered Care

On Feb. 21, more than 50 University of Mississippi Medical Center nursing, medical and pharmacy students participated in the first interprofessional obesity simulation exercise conducted using video interview files and QR codes.

To read the barcodes, students used an imaging device, such as a tablet or cellphone. They then were linked directly to a standardized patient's community resources and interviews with the patient that were conducted from six professional perspectives: nurse, nurse practitioner, dentist, physician, pharmacist and dietician.

**"The module has embedded videos** and websites that enrich the student learning environment, creating an 'augmented reality,'" said Dr. Sharon Lobert, School of Nursing associate dean for research and evaluation. "Augmented reality is used in the case background to bring the student to the patient's community with videos of the neighborhood, grocery store, school, park, etc., allowing the students to experience the patient's environment and develop patient-centered



*Dr. Sharon Lobert, School of Nursing associate dean for research and evaluation, uses her avatar to explain to a group of approximately 50 students on the Jackson and Oxford campuses the objectives of the obesity case study.*

recommendations in collaboration with the interprofessional team and the patient/family."

The students next were charged with several objectives, which included collecting health-assessment data from discipline-specific and cultural perspectives; identifying gaps in data; and differentiating appropriate, inappropriate and effective methods of communicating with patients, families and members of the interprofessional health-care team.

This particular exercise was focused on communication and cultural competence, said Lobert, who spearheaded the project. *continued on page 2...*

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

## SON Pilots 'Augmented Reality,' Leads Multi-disciplinary



After having used QR codes to access video files of patient interviews, a group of nursing, medical and pharmacy students discuss the case study and its implications on patient-centered care.

**Nursing, medical, pharmacy and nutrition faculty** helped develop the case study on adult obesity, with the assistance of Dr. Judy Gearhart, director of the UMMC Clinical Skills Assessment Center, and her staff. The module also was packaged for individual and group online learning with embedded quizzes and voice discussions that allowed students to assess their progress.

After viewing the videos, groups of six or seven nursing, medical and pharmacy students discussed questions related to the interactions they observed in the videos. Asked to describe the quality of communication between the different team members and the patient, the students not only learned about the dos and don'ts of effective patient-centered communication, they also learned about the roles that other providers play.

"In the clinical setting, nursing students are able to experience aspects of patient care, but we often only observe communication between nurses and pharmacists," said senior nursing student Katie Luna. "IPE provides us with the practice we need in this area."

"I learned how glad I am to have pharmacists. Nursing students learn a lot about medications and provide patients with information regarding side effects, mechanisms of action, etc., but we are not always available to provide this teaching. Being able to consult the pharmacy to help with patient education or dose calculation is an invaluable resource."

**A better understanding** of the individual roles that providers play was one of the biggest lessons obtained in this interprofessional exercise. All areas of health care are crucial to the overall welfare of the patient, said third-year medical student Jonathan Blossom.

"I know that I am more aware of how I should inform others of my role on the team, as well as knowing what others' roles are," Blossom said. "It promotes better flow and continuity of care."

Accelerated BSN student Amy Hooker said there are health-care challenges that IPE exercises such as this one can both address and eventually prevent.

"There was a medical student who is currently a pharmacist," Hooker said. "She pointed out that there might be several 'names' for one item or medication; it just depends on who you are talking to."

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

## Discussion on Patient-centered Care (cont.)

“The pharmacist calls it one thing, the nurse calls it something different, and the doctor calls it another name. Remembering each discipline’s ‘lingo’ can be difficult.”

**This was the first time** that this type of technology was used for an interprofessional exercise. The ‘augmented reality’ fostered discussion on some of the biggest communication challenges faced by health-care providers while also helping students experience what the patients experience, in terms of access to healthy foods, ease of transportation and other environmental barriers to good health.

“Being allowed to work with each other on case studies simulates the communication and collaboration that will be necessary in real-life scenarios to provide patients with well-rounded care,” said senior nursing student Charlise Murphy. “All health disciplines must learn how to share their expertise with the patient’s entire health-care team in order to ensure the best treatment for the patient.”

“The role of IPE, and especially through this experience, stresses the importance of talking with other health-care providers to get a better understanding of what is best for the patient,” said Rohini Krishna, first-year medical student. “Personally, I learned a lot more than I expected in this IPE experience, as it was a mix of medical, nursing and pharmacy students each providing their opinions.”

While this was the first interprofessional education exercise that used QR codes for accessing simulated patient interviews, IPE has long been a hot topic in the School of Nursing and Medical Center as a whole.

In the undergraduate nursing curriculum, students regularly complete IPE exercises with students and providers from

other disciplines.

“I have had various interactions at the bedside with respiratory therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists, physicians and other health-care providers,” said senior nursing student Mary Hunter Cunningham. “Through the IPE experience, I learned that my health-care provider counterparts all play an important role in patient care. It is necessary for all of us to work together to provide the best and most efficient care possible.”

**“Interprofessional education is key** for developing patient-centered collaborative practice,” Lobert said. “At UMMC, we want to develop innovative methods for preclinical education that will foster communication that is essential for optimal health outcomes for our patients and patient safety.”

And while the IPE opportunities in the School of Medicine have been more limited, Blossom said the collaboration and communication pieces of IPE are stressed heavily.

“I definitely think more sessions like this will be implemented in the future, and I encourage others to take part in these exercises,” he said.

“Nursing, in collaboration with other disciplines at UMMC and Ole Miss, will continue to refine and expand learning modules such as this one,” Lobert said. “The effective use of technology will help us to reach our students at all levels and bring together groups of students using both synchronous and asynchronous modalities to foster discussion and lay the foundation for truly collaborative patient-centered practice.”

## Upcoming Events

**DNP Symposium**  
Tuesday, June 3

**Summer Journal Club**  
Thursday, June 5

**Independence Day**  
Friday, July 4

**Summer Term Ends**  
Friday, August 1

**New Student Orientation**  
Thursday, August 7

**Classes Begin**  
Monday, August 11

**Labor Day**  
Monday, September 1

**\*Med/Surg Conference**  
Friday, September 26

**Spring Application Deadline**  
Wednesday, October 15

**\*Diabetes Conference**  
Thursday, November 6

**Fall Break Begins**  
Monday, November 24

**Fall Term Ends**  
Saturday, December 13

**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.umm.edu/son/CE/>.

## First African-American Male Graduate of Accelerated Program Uses IHL Project to Highlight Experiences



Photos courtesy of Maris, West & Baker

*In August 2013, Jeremy Clark became the first African-American male to graduate from the School of Nursing's Accelerated BSN program. He now works as an RN at Central Mississippi Medical Center in the burn step-down unit.*



Photos courtesy of Maris, West & Baker

*As part of the IHL's College Discovered Project, Ebony Brown, 2013 Accelerated BSN graduate, offered advice to middle-school students. "Find something that you're interested in," she said. "Find something that you are passionate about. If you're interested in nursing or think that you're interested in nursing, find yourself a mentor."*

When a 200-pound pole dislodged from an awning and fractured one of his student's skulls, middle-school math teacher Jeremy Clark knew his future belonged in nursing.

"That's my son," Clark said. "I called my kids my sons and my daughters, and so, I looked at it like he was my child. I went in, and I didn't know anything about CPR. I didn't know anything about aligning or c-spine; I didn't know anything about that. I just went under and cradled him, lifted him, held his spine.

"His level of consciousness was very low, but he started to come out of his convulsions. 9-1-1. I put him on the ambulance. I'm 'Mister Clark,' so while that was going on, I had 30 students that I told 'Get in line.' I held him, got him on the ambulance, and then I took my kids to class and gave them their test."

Although the ambulance left carrying his student to the hospital, Clark's job was not done, he said. He asked his principal for permission to check on the injured student.

"I didn't know about assessing- neurological- I didn't know anything about that," he said. "I went into the ER room with the test I gave my students. I gave him his math test on the gurney. That was my way of assessing whether he still had brain function like he was supposed to, and he actually got a 95 on the test."

Clark never shed a tear, at least not until he left the emergency room and it occurred to him what happened earlier that day.

"I said, 'I want to do something in this field, saving and touching lives, and that was it for me.'"

Clark and fellow 2013 Accelerated BSN graduate Ebony Brown shared their equally compelling motivations for entering the nursing profession as part of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning's College Discovered Project. The pair took video cameras home and

recorded their daily routines, while offering tips to middle-school and high-school students considering higher education and, specifically, careers in health care.

The videos feature everything from studying pointers, quick-and-easy dinners, advice for becoming a more competitive applicant, clinical survival skills tips and interviews with Dr. Jan Cooper, director of the school's Clinical Simulation Center. Clark, who became the first African-American male to graduate from the Accelerated BSN program, also includes a segment on why men should consider careers in nursing.

To view the series of videos featuring the two School of Nursing graduates, visit the College Discovered website, <http://riseupms.com/collegediscovered/healthcare/>.

## Haynie Receives Alumnus of the Year Award at Annual Alumni Meeting



At the annual alumni meeting April 3, Dr. Lisa Haynie, left, receives the Alumnus of the Year Award from nursing alumni chapter president Michelle Burns.

Recognized for 16 years of service to the School of Nursing and more than two decades of contributions to nursing practice, Dr. Lisa Haynie received the 2014 Alumnus of the Year Award at the April 3 alumni meeting.

Haynie's storied career began in maternal-newborn nursing, pediatrics, women's health and general medical-surgical nursing. She worked as a family nurse practitioner for the Mississippi State Department of Health before joining the School of Nursing faculty in 1998. Likewise, she has served as president of the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation and is an active member of the Mississippi Nurses' Association.

Currently, she is the director of the School of Nursing's Mercy Delta Express Project. She also serves as a family nurse practitioner for the UNACARE Health Center in Jackson.

## Graduate's Journey to South Africa Opens Doors to Education, Career in Mississippi Delta

Six weeks after traveling more than 8,000 miles from her hometown of Flora, Kayla Logan Carr, a sophomore biology major, decided to become a registered nurse.

While conducting exploratory research in HIV education and prevalence in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2006, Carr's professional trajectory took a different course. She originally wanted to finish her biology degree and begin a career teaching English as a second language, but after seeing a community-based approach to health care involving mobile units where HIV educational materials and medical supplies were being distributed, Carr made the decision to change her major.

"I served alongside nurses and community educators who would drive through local townships and hold impromptu, roadside health-education classes about HIV/AIDS," Carr said. "Many of these patients were homebound or had no access to transportation. There wasn't always an appropriate local meeting place. A mobile model was part of the solution.

"I was energized by the way they met people where they were living to provide these much-needed health services."



Kayla Carr, right, nurse practitioner, charts while third-year medical student Kristen Dent, left, helps nurse practitioner Kathy Rhodes examine 13-year-old Antavious Singleton at the Mercy Delta Express Project's clinic at South Delta Middle School.

Her first trip to South Africa was so profound that one year later, the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College funded her second trip to Johannesburg. With a growing interest in global health, particularly reproductive health, Carr returned to Mississippi armed with a new perspective on the stark similarities between public health challenges faced by South Africa and the American South.

*continued on page 6 ...*

## Graduate's Journey to South Africa Opens Doors to Education,



*While in South Africa, Kayla Carr, right, worked with Mission Sebenzela to provide a summer program to children, such as Pomesele, left. This photo was taken at a crèche in the Mamelodi township.*

“There are certainly similar challenges in rural South Africa and the rural southern United States,” she said. “There are issues of transportation, health literacy challenges, unemployment, sub-standard housing and poverty, to name a few.

**“I became interested** in the mobile model and other innovative health-care delivery models and how they could be implemented to address public health concerns, especially in rural areas.”

It was during Carr’s third semester of nursing school that she began her honors college thesis research and, consequently, connected with Dr. Lisa Haynie, professor of nursing and director of the Mercy Delta Express Project.

Mercy Delta is a University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing faculty-run clinic that provides mobile, school-based health care to children in the Mississippi Delta, one of the most impoverished, medically underserved regions in the nation. As there are no pediatricians in Sharkey or Issaquena counties, the two counties served by Mercy Delta, the clinic serves approximately 500 children and adolescents and fills the gap in care by providing medical, dental and health-education services.

**“I was thrilled** when Kayla approached me about the work we were doing in the Delta and her interest in conducting research in that area,” said Haynie.

Having just been approached by the superintendent of the South Delta School District about the possibility of opening a school-based health center at the middle school in Anguilla and later at the elementary school, the timing was perfect, Haynie said.

The superintendent was concerned because children were missing school frequently for non-contagious illnesses, and there were no health-care providers in Anguilla and limited health-care resources in Rolling Fork, the next-closest town. Parents were picking children up from school and keeping them home for several days at a time. As a result, students were missing valuable classroom time and were not adequately prepared for state testing, Haynie said.

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**“Seeing South Africa’s health disparities, coupled with ‘out-of-the-box’ solutions like a mobile unit, inspired me to seek innovative ways to care for patients back home.”**

*- Kayla Logan Carr*

“Kayla and I discussed these concerns and developed a plan,” said Haynie. “We knew the first step was to conduct a needs assessment in order to determine if the parents, faculty and staff perceived that there was a need for a school-based health center. Kayla submitted a proposal to the IRB, developed a questionnaire and implemented the research throughout the South Delta School District.

“The results revealed that there was a definite need for a health center at all schools, as well as a need for health education on a variety of topics,” said Haynie. “These results were used in a successful application to W.K. Kellogg Foundation for funding in late 2011.”

**The first clinic opened Feb. 1, 2012**, at South Delta Middle School. Since then, clinics also have opened at South Delta Elementary and Ripley-Blackwell Head Start.

“My experience in the honors college helped me identify where I wanted to take my life and career,” Carr said. “I knew I loved biological science and enjoyed working with people, but I wasn’t sure what this looked like long-term. Seeing South Africa’s health disparities, coupled with ‘out-of-the-box’ solutions like a mobile unit, inspired me

## Career in Mississippi Delta (cont.)

to seek innovative ways to care for patients back home. The experience was invaluable.”

Carr has not been the only student to benefit from unique research opportunities made available by the honors college and the School of Nursing.

“A wide variety of exploratory research studies have been conducted by Ole Miss Honors College students who graduated from our School of Nursing,” said Dr. Robin Wilkerson, director of the School of Nursing’s north Mississippi campus.

**In addition to Carr’s research**, other examples include 2007 graduate Elizabeth Fowler’s research on risk factors and co-morbidities in patients who have a do-not-resuscitate order and 2012 graduate Micaela DeLashmit’s qualitative research study of elders’ perceptions and expectations of health care. Current senior nursing student Charlise Murphy is conducting a research study, “The Traditional Baccalaureate Student Nurse’s Experience in Choosing an Initial Area of Practice.”

Now, eight years after her maiden journey to South Africa, Carr, a 2010 honors college graduate, has completed a master’s degree and works as a family nurse practitioner for Mercy Delta. Additionally, Carr serves as a part-time faculty member in the School of Nursing, where she teaches Accelerated BSN students. She is also in the process of applying to doctoral programs.

**The Institute of Medicine** issued a report in 2010 speaking to this very subject, Wilkerson said. In response to the demands of an evolving health-care system and the changing needs of patients, the report recommended doubling the number of nurses with a doctoral degree by 2020.

“Nursing students who complete a thesis and conduct research are well prepared to continue their education toward a doctoral degree and are positioned to do so earlier in their careers,” said Wilkerson.

In preparing for the future, as Carr grades nursing students’ care plans and gives STD and abstinence talks to groups of South Delta High School seniors, she

remains grateful for the early lessons on rural health and access to care that she learned in South Africa nearly a decade ago.

**“My experience in the honors college** has brought me further than I ever thought possible,” Carr said. “It is a blessing to see a research idea come full circle into a project like Mercy Delta. I appreciate the opportunity to explore a problem like rural health-care disparity, research it and implement a plan of action.

“The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and UMMC School of Nursing truly value research and the meaningful application of new ideas. Long-term, I hope to continue research in innovative ways to address the health disparities faced by rural-dwelling Mississippians, specifically the pediatric population. There is still much to be done,” she said.

“I tell everyone that it was a true blessing that Kayla and I were brought together for this project because we are both passionate about rural health and caring for the medically underserved,” Haynie said. “Kayla continues to amaze me, as she began as the registered nurse on the project while in graduate school and now is one of our nurse practitioners.

“She is a wonderful example of what the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College is all about.”



*As part of her exploratory research in HIV education and reproductive health, Kayla Carr, who now serves as a nurse practitioner in the Mississippi Delta and also is on faculty at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing, volunteered at the Refilwe Bophelo Clinic in South Africa. Here, a mural depicts the clinic’s mission to provide a safe and secure family environment for abandoned and vulnerable children.*

## Doctoral Student Presents Research Findings at APRN Conference



Pam Farris

PhD student Pam Farris presented at the Mississippi Nurses' Association APRN spring conference in Mobile, Ala., on April 12. Her presentation, "Adoption of New Best Practices Eliminates CLABSIs in a Bone Marrow Transplant Unit," was based on evidence-based nursing practice and its effect on patient outcomes.

"Specifically, for this presentation, I was able to showcase how nursing sought to reduce blood-stream infections in a bone marrow transplant unit at the University of Mississippi Medical Center through researching and implementing the evidence," said Farris, UMMC Bone Marrow Transplant Unit nurse manager. "The results produced positive patient outcomes, the reduction of CLABSIs."

## DNP Graduate Slated to Present at National DNP Conference in October

More than 250 abstracts were submitted to the National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference, and December DNP graduate Michelle Welander's poster was one of the few chosen. She will present her DNP capstone project, "An Impact Evaluation of a Newly Developed Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit within a Children's Heart Center," in October in Nashville, Tenn.

## AGNP Student Receives Med-Surg Certification

Flora Green, a student in the MSN Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner track, recently completed her Medical-Surgical certification. Green serves as the nurse educator on 4 North in the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

## MSN Nurse Educator Student's Poster Accepted to AORN Conference

UMMC Perioperative Educator Florence Cooper presented a poster, "The Magic of Caring in the Operating Room: The Nursing Situation, Answering the Call, and Engaging in the Dance," at the 2014 Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses Surgical Conference and Expo in Chicago. Cooper will graduate from the MSN program's Nurse Educator track later this month.

## DNP Student Gives Nursing Testimony at Nebraska Convention

On March 9, DNP student Joy Akanji delivered her nursing testimony in North Platte, Neb., at the Nebraska Gideon International Convention. Akanji is a hospital educator at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

## American Heart Association Recognizes DNP Student

For her role in the Metro-Jackson "CPR Success" Project, DNP student Michelle Schweinfurth received a framed letter signed by Nancy Brown, the chief executive officer of the American Heart Association. "Your collaborative efforts across development and health strategies functional lines are an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when we work with the authentic desire to position one another for success," Brown said. "Thank you, Michelle, for your continued commitment and numerous contributions to the organization." Schweinfurth serves as the training center coordinator for the UMMC Department of Emergency Medicine.



## Faculty and Staff Recognized for Service to Medical Center

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff who received service pins this quarter: Kayla Logan Carr, five years; Erica Gates, five years; Rochelle Anthony, 10 years; Vanessa Caldwell, 10 years; and Clint McHann, 10 years.

## Sigma Theta Tau Inducts Largest Class in School History

On March 17, the School of Nursing's Theta Beta chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society inducted more than 130 students, making this the largest class of inductees in school history. The purpose of this society is to recognize superior achievement and development of leadership qualities; foster high professional standards; encourage creative work; and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purpose of the profession. Candidates for membership are selected from the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs on the basis of academic achievement.



*Senior Traditional BSN student Brennan Williams receives his pin from Sigma Theta Tau member Bess Blackwell.*



*Bess Blackwell pins MSN student Bryan Crawford during the March 17 Sigma Theta Tau induction ceremony.*

## School of Nursing Celebrates 100 Percent FNP Pass Rate

The numbers are in. In 2013, 100 percent of the School of Nursing family nurse practitioner students passed the national certification examination. All 29 students who tested scored higher than the national average on each of the four testing domains.

## Vaughan Receives AACN Service Award

Lisa Vaughan, director of business operations for the School of Nursing, was recognized in April at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing business officer meeting in Charleston, S.C. Vaughan was honored for her 10-year stint on the national organization's various steering committees, on which she served as secretary, planning committee chair, chair-elect, chair and past-chair.

## Student Recruiter Delivers Marketing Strategy Presentations

At the annual American Association of Colleges of Nursing Graduate Nursing Admissions Professionals Conference, Senior Student Recruiter Kim Ferguson gave two presentations: "Developing a Comprehensive Strategic Marketing Plan for Your Program" and "Tools for Designing an Effective Recruitment Plan." The national conference took place in Nashville, Tenn., in April.

## Honors Day Commemorates Academic, Service Achievements



*From left to right, Demetrice McDuffey, Tresleone Flowers, Regina Peterson and Jessica Sinclair join Dr. Marcia Rachel, right, in presenting their inaugural award to Ashley Harvell and Shardai Williams.*



*Julia McCormac, left, and Dr. Marcia Rachel, right, present the Duncan McCormac Memorial Scholarship to undergraduate student Rebecca Poe.*



*Graduate and undergraduate students alike receive lapel pins for their significant contributions to various community events at Honors Day.*

An opportunity to celebrate the academic and extracurricular triumphs of the School of Nursing student body, Honors Day, perhaps is a day best known for its stories of immense generosity.

It was because of this generosity that on May 2, more than \$200,000 in scholarships and awards were given, and at least 200 students were recognized.

Junior Traditional BSN students Ashley Harvell and Shardai Williams were just two of the beneficiaries of this generosity. They received scholarships established by four members of the Class of 2013. Soon after graduating last May from the BSN program, newly minted RNs Demetrice McDuffey, Jessica Sinclair, Tresleone Flowers and Regina Peterson banded together to create two scholarships for undergraduate students.

Julia McCormac graduated from the School of Nursing in 1965. She, too, wanted to give back to her alma mater. Since 2004, she has awarded the Duncan McCormac Memorial Scholarship, and this year, four of these awards were given, one to an undergraduate, one to an MSN student and two others to doctoral students.

Other awards included the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, which was given to three senior BSN students who maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average in nursing school: Taylor Elliott, Katie Lee Lloyd and Kyle Parker. Lloyd also received the UMMC 50th Anniversary Award and was named marshal of the class, based on her GPA, commitment and service to the senior class, school and university.

“Service is a value deeply embedded within the profession of nursing and within the culture of the School of Nursing,” said scholarship committee chair Pam Helms. “It is a tool for learning, for providing interprofessional experiences and for fulfilling our commitment to build nurse leaders.”

More than two dozen graduate and undergraduate students were recognized for serving as leaders of various service projects this year. Together with the nursing student body, these students logged an excess of 6,500 hours of service, raised more than \$18,000 for charitable organizations and participated in more than 170 events in Jackson and across the state. According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s valuation of volunteered time and energies, this service came with a suggested monetary value exceeding \$147,000. Check out the “Spotlight on Service” feature on pages 14 and 15 for details on these efforts.

## Faculty Take Home State's Top Nursing Prizes

At the annual Mississippi Nurses' Association and Mississippi Nurses' Foundation Nightingale Awards on March 3 at the Downtown Marriott in Jackson, four School of Nursing faculty members won awards in their categories. Dr. Barbara Boss, professor and director of the DNP program, won the Nurse Faculty Member of the Year Award. Dr. Kristi Henderson, associate professor of nursing and director of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Telehealth program, won the Nurse Innovator of the Year Award. Taking home the Nurse Researcher of the Year Award was Dr. Deborah Konkle-Parker, associate professor of nursing, for her extensive HIV research efforts. Retired longtime School of Nursing faculty member Dr. Barbara Rogers was inducted into the Mississippi Nurses' Association Hall of Fame. Dr. Josie Bidwell, assistant professor of nursing, was also nominated for the Nurse Innovator of the Year Award. Congratulations to all recipients and nominees.



*For her 30-plus years of service to the nursing profession, Dr. Barbara Boss, right, receives the Nurse Faculty Member of the Year Award.*

## School of Nursing Celebrates Achievements of Three Retirees



*Dr. Pat Waltman*

Collectively, they bring more than six decades of experience and knowledge to the School of Nursing. At the end of this semester, the school will celebrate their achievements and service to both the university and profession as a whole, while also marking the end of an era. Drs. Pat Waltman, Laura Schenk and Joyce Brewer will retire at the end of May.

**Dr. Pat Waltman**, tenured professor of nursing and associate dean for academic affairs and accreditation, joined the School of Nursing in 1990. Her nursing career began in general pediatrics and the pediatric intensive care unit, as head nurse and charge nurse. For the next 11 years, she worked as a neonatal nurse practitioner. Her many national and state committees and appointments include serving on the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing Government Relations Committee, Commission on Collegiate Nurse Education as a site team evaluator and Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools as an item writer for their certification program examinations.



*Dr. Laura Schenk*

**Dr. Laura Schenk**, tenured associate professor of nursing, joined the School of Nursing faculty in 1992. She is also a certified neonatal nurse practitioner. In her 43 years of nursing practice, she has worked as a pediatric staff nurse, NICU staff nurse and nursery staff nurse. In addition to serving on faculty for 22 years, she has worked as a legal expert and consultant, presented at more than 18 regional and national conferences, offered her expertise as a reviewer of numerous books and articles and published a number of scholarly articles.



*Dr. Joyce Brewer*

**Dr. Joyce Brewer**, director of the Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner tracks, joined the School of Nursing in 1997. Since then, she has worked her way up the ranks from instructor to full tenured professor. Her varied clinical experience includes time spent as a charge nurse in labor and delivery, certified nurse-midwife, certified family nurse practitioner, perinatal specialist in the newborn nursery and pediatric AIDS coordinator and case manager, to name a few.

## Four Inducted into Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence



From left to right, Dr. Savina Schoenhofer, professor of nursing; Dr. Susan Lofton, professor of nursing and director of the RN-BSN program; Mary Jackson, instructor in nursing; and Nikki Pittman, assistant professor of nursing, were recently inducted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence. "We are delighted that our school is represented by such exemplary faculty and want to congratulate them again for this honor," said Dr. Marcia Rachel, associate dean for academic programs. The four recipients will be honored publicly at the May 23 commencement exercises and were also recognized at a luncheon May 12.

## Team of Faculty Members Publish Article in Home Health Journal



*Robyn MacSorley*

Robyn MacSorley, instructor in nursing, took her passion for patient care, particularly with elderly clients in home health and internal medicine clinical settings, and published an article, "Pain Assessment and Management Strategies for Elderly Patients." The writing team was rounded out by Dr. Jill White, with her attention to pharmacotherapy modalities for elderly patients, and Vicki Conerly, now a graduate student in the MSN Health Care Administrator track. Conerly, while in the RN-BSN program, pursued research around her clinical expertise in pain management in the elderly with severe bone pain. Adding Dr. Debrynda Davey, consultant/researcher; Gaye Ragland, assistant professor of nursing; Dr. Jean Walker, professor of nursing; and Dr. Susan Lofton, professor of nursing and director of the RN-BSN program, this writing team's years of nursing practice contribute more than 200 years of nursing knowledge and skill to produce this manuscript. Amy Robertson, School of Nursing graphics designer, created the article's tables and the highly applicable communications model. The article will appear in the May issue of Home Healthcare Nurse.

## PhD Candidate and Faculty Member Have Manuscript Accepted

Melissa Temple, a PhD candidate, and Dr. Jennifer Robinson, associate professor of nursing, had a manuscript accepted for publication. The in-press manuscript, "A Systematic Review of Interventions to Promote Physical Activity in the Preschool Setting," will appear in the Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing.

## Mississippi Disaster Relief Team Deployed

In support of President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech, four members of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's disaster medical assistance team (MS-1 DMAT) were deployed in January.

The Medical Center's members included, left to right, Jennifer Stephen; Dr. Carl Mangum, associate professor of nursing and emergency preparedness and response specialist; Chelsea McClain; and Robyn MacSorley, instructor in nursing. MS-1 DMAT is a federal medical team from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



## Coats Presents at National Conference

Heather Coats, instructor in nursing, presented at the 47th-annual Western Institute of Nursing Research Conference. Her presentation, "Taking It Global: Research, Practice and Education in Nursing," was made during the conference's research and information exchange in Seattle on April 9.

## Northington Publishes Paper, Presents at Two Conferences



*Dr. LaDonna Northington*

Dr. LaDonna Northington, professor of nursing and director of the Traditional BSN program, in April published an article, "Nasogastric Tube Placement and Verification in Children: Review of the Current Literature." The article appeared in the April 15 issue of *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*.

She will present preliminary data from the research in a podium presentation at the Building Superheroes for the Future Conference at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in September, as well as at the Association of Black Nursing Faculty Conference in Puerto Rico in June.

## Lee Selected for National Expert Panel

Lishia Lee, assistant professor of nursing, in February was elected chair of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's pediatric nursing content expert panel.

## Hospital System CNEO Joins School of Nursing Faculty



*Dr. Janet Harris*

In February, Dr. Janet Harris, University of Mississippi Medical Center chief nursing executive officer, joined the School of Nursing as associate dean for practice and community engagement.

Harris brings more than 40 years of nursing experience to the School of Nursing. In addition to serving as the chief nursing executive officer of the UMMC system and chief nursing officer of University Hospital, she teaches in the school's DNP program and has been active for many years in local and national community and professional organizations. She completed four years on the Congress of Nursing Practice and Economics and served as a Magnet commissioner with the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is also a past president of the Mississippi Nurses' Association and Mississippi Nurses' Foundation.

"Our strategies around service learning and practice via our clinics have led us down an exciting path – one that includes teaching our students in a community environment, interprofessional education, support of the community and better health of the community," said Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing. "Additionally, the number of School of Nursing-managed clinics has grown, most recently through the Teen Wellness Clinic expansion at UNACARE and the school-based clinics in the Delta. Because of the growth in these clinics, we have an opportunity to leverage our resources to even greater impact."

Harris will continue serving as CNEO for the hospital system, as well as chief nursing officer of the adult hospitals. This joint appointment with the School of Nursing will strengthen the school's practice and community engagement and create stronger partnerships between the school and service through a more formal role, Hoover said.

"Janet brings a wealth of experience and clinical clout to this position," she said.

## Students Volunteer 6,500 Hours to More Than 170 Projects



Angela Duck

When she is not working, studying or conducting research for her dissertation, PhD student Angela Duck can be found with her children. She serves as a coach and cheer commissioner with programs in her community; travels internationally to provide early-intervention services to special-needs infants and toddlers in an orphanage in Ecuador; and teaches third-grade students at Davis Magnet School in Jackson about local, national and global access to health care.

Giving more than 80 hours of her time, Duck, a full-time student and inaugural recipient of the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences stipend and scholarship, said, “The students were very responsive and given opportunities to ask questions. I encouraged the students and their teachers to promote their own health through physical activity, healthy diet, immunizations, dental care and hand-washing. I also challenged the students to identify ways to improve health disparities, such as fundraising for clean water in developing countries.”

**Senior BSN student Kelly Davidson**, along with her classmates on the Oxford campus, also volunteered for the cause of pediatric health promotion. The senior class conducted a “Bee Healthy” health fair for 100 preschool children at Bramlett Elementary School in Oxford on April 7.

The health fair consisted of six stations, including a “Your Heart Bumbles” station in which the nursing students helped the preschoolers find their heartbeats and listen to them with stethoscopes. The “Honey in My Tummy” station provided an outlet for conversations about good nutrition and portion control, as well as offering baby carrots, bananas and graham cracker snacks for the children. At the “Buzz Off, Germs” station, the preschoolers were given glow soap after their hands had been washed. With a UV light, the areas that had not been cleaned properly lit up.

“We taught them that hand-washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection and disease,” Davidson



*At the “Bee Healthy” Health Fair, 100 Bramlett Elementary School preschool students learn about how to prevent the spread of germs and the importance of good nutrition and physical activity, in addition to gaining awareness on disabilities and the role that nurses play in health promotion.*

said.

At the “Bee Aware” station, the children were given non-prescription glasses that had petroleum jelly on the lenses, as well as plastic sandwich bags to cover their hands. The children were asked to color a picture of a bumblebee, while the nursing students explained to them the difficulty of living with a disability.

The final two stations pertained to stimulating the five senses for the preschoolers, as well as illustrating the importance of an active lifestyle.

“The children loved the Bee Healthy health fair,” Davidson said. “The preschool teachers told Karly Miller and me that they all loved it and thought it was a success. It was definitely an enjoyable experience.”



Brandi Smith

**For RN-MSN student Brandi Smith’s** service-learning experience, she donated more than 113 hours to Camp Rainbow, a free camping experience for children who have survived or who are undergoing treatment for cancer and blood-related diseases and disorders. She also volunteered for High Hopes Farms, offering therapeutic horseback riding for children with disabilities.



*Madison Nowell*

Of the 170 service activities conducted in Jackson and around the state this year, some originated from nothing more than a student's interest in a particular population or event, while others stemmed from a specific need, said Director of Student Affairs Tammy Dempsey.

**Take Madison Nowell, for instance.**

After a string of tornados pummeled through many Mississippi towns on April 28, including Nowell's hometown of Louisville, the senior BSN student sprang into action and spearheaded a clothing drive for Louisville.

What started out as a clothing drive, however, turned into something much bigger when four graduating seniors purchased and delivered more than \$400 worth of supplies to the American Red Cross and the Plattsburg Volunteer Fire Department.



*From left to right, Brennan Williams, Nicole Garner, Anna Claire Cauthen and Katie Lee Lloyd purchase more than \$400 of much-needed disaster-relief supplies, in response to the April 28 tornadoes that struck Mississippi.*

Leaving with a three-foot-long receipt in hand, the students were able to purchase much-needed cleaning supplies, toilet paper, shampoo, socks, toothpaste, peroxide, first-aid supplies, sunscreen and work gloves, among other things.

"The supplies meant a lot, I know," Dempsey said. "We were able to clear a little debris, but our most important goal was to connect with our students there to let them

know we are here and will continue to be here to help however we can," Dempsey said.

"I've never felt so proud to be a part of such a wonderful institution and member of such an awesome profession," said Amelia Kelley, a graduate student in the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track.

"I took the supplies to Mars Hill in Plattsburg, and it was graciously received. Though I was not directly affected, my heart breaks for loved ones, neighbors and strangers who've had their lives forever changed," Kelley said. "True compassionate people, such as you all, have helped with re-strengthening this little city today in more ways than you know. I can't thank y'all enough and look forward to the next opportunity to serve alongside you."



*Gaydon Wright*

**MSN student Gaydon Wright**, also from Louisville, is now volunteering with the American Red Cross. She was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity she witnessed, she said, and has since given her own energies to her hometown's recovery efforts.

"It has been a very tough nine days," Wright said. "I am so fortunate that my home was not damaged and my family is all safe; however, I have many friends that have lost their homes and everything they had, and many more with a great deal of damage. It is so unreal.

"But thank God, it is an absolute miracle that so many lives were spared," she said. "Amelia and I have both been working some at the Red Cross shelter at First Baptist Church. We have also been working to gather donations and help deliver them to the people in the rural areas that are also devastated."

For these efforts and so many others, School of Nursing students are to be commended, Dempsey said.

"They have completed in excess of 6,500 hours of service, raising more than \$18,000 for worthy causes. They participated in more than 170 events in Jackson and across the state, with a suggested monetary value for their service exceeding \$147,000," said Dempsey.

# Semester in Review

## 100 Future Nurses Participate in Inaugural High School Visit Day



More than 100 high school students from across the Magnolia State tour the newly renovated simulation center and interact with the high-fidelity manikins at the School of Nursing's Feb. 7 High School Visit Day.



At one of the High School Visit Day panel discussions, participants ask questions, learn about the admission process, discuss the profession's plethora of career opportunities and listen to the stories of current students and faculty.

## Oxford Students Relay for a Cause, Raise More Than \$1,200



Charlsie Murphy



India Bush

Twenty-nine graduate and undergraduate students participated in the Relay for Life on April 15. Led by senior BSN students Charlsie Murphy and India Bush, the group sold corndogs, participated in Zumba exercises and walked the track to earn points for the team. "It was a blast," Murphy said. "I would say it was definitely a success for a rainy day."

The group's final fundraising total: \$1,215.55. For their volunteerism, both Murphy and Bush were awarded service pins at the May 2 Honors Day ceremony.

## Discover Nursing Day Inspires 900 Children to Consider Nursing



Senior BSN student Aseye Attipoe, right, demonstrates to a Rowan Middle School student how to use a stethoscope at the March 31 Discover Nursing Day, which also took place at both Brown Elementary and Johnson Elementary.



By visiting stations to have their photos made in nursing uniforms and participating in role-playing skits, more than 900 students at three Jackson schools learn about healthy lifestyles and the role that nurses play at Discover Nursing Day.