



School of Nursing

The University of
Mississippi Medical Center

Winter 2014

vital signs

Volume 3: Issue 5

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IPE Promotes Strong Clinical Teamwork

Intimidation and trepidation

weighed heavily on Oxford Traditional BSN students as they began an interprofessional education experience with School of Pharmacy students in November.

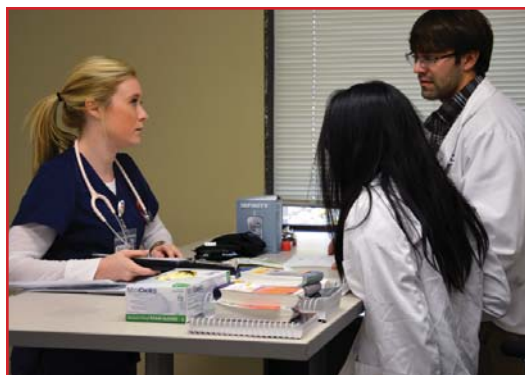
Three weeks later, those fears were replaced with ones of confidence and mutual respect for both professions.

The learning exercise between the two schools encouraged faculty members from both schools to co-teach lectures and students to participate in weekly skills labs, problem-based learning cases and two clinical simulation scenarios together.

"The purposes of the IPE were related to IPE competencies of values and ethics, roles and responsibilities, communication and teams and teamwork. The content area was care of the patient with diabetes," said Dr. Robin Wilkerson, director of the North Mississippi campus.

Nursing students guided the pharmacy students in the use of the glucometer and blood-glucose checks, Wilkerson said. They also facilitated the lessons on insulin injections, while School of Pharmacy students led modules on appropriate medication choices.

In the end, both groups learned more about one another's roles and areas of expertise, as well as how to best



Pictured is Traditional BSN student Annabeth Pardue discussing the diabetes lesson plan with second-year School of Pharmacy students Kathie Nguyen and Matt Purvis.

communicate with other health-care providers. The students left the experience not only with a greater respect for their fellow health-care providers, but also an increased knowledge of the other profession's unique contributions, Wilkerson said.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, "Interprofessional education (IPE) involves shared learning experiences among health profession students across disciplines, with the goals of building strong clinical teams and improving health outcomes. Leading authorities including the World Health Organization, Institute of Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation among others have all identified IPE as an effective way to enhance the preparation of the healthcare workforce and optimize care delivery."

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

Enrollment Nears 800, Building Undergoes Renovation



*Dr. Marcia Rachel
Associate Dean
for Academic
Programs*

It's always interesting to see where groups of students are clustered in the building. Whether as a group or individually, students seem to find some great nooks and crannies where they can study and work on projects. However, as our enrollment numbers have continued to climb (we are close to 800), the competition for these spots has increased. In response to this, we have been evaluating space in the School of Nursing building and are making plans to create and maximize areas for students. Be on the lookout for small changes in the building that will help with this. There has also been quite a bit of work on the simulation lab renovations. If you haven't seen this, it's worth a visit.

As you read this issue of *Vital Signs*, you'll see many examples of student- and faculty-led initiatives that contribute to the health of our community. These are examples of leadership in action,—individuals who see a need and take action to address it—and they align well with our School of Nursing mission to develop nurse leaders.

Interprofessional Exercise Utilizes QR Codes to 'Augment Reality'



Pictured in the clinical simulation project with the standardized patient is Dr. Tina Martin, director of the Accelerated BSN program, which will pilot this module in the spring.

Utilizing video files accessed via QR codes, nursing, medical, pharmacy and nutrition students will pilot a new technology-driven interprofessional education exercise this spring.

Dr. Sharon Lobert, associate dean for research, practice and evaluation, spearheaded the effort, which is focused on communication and cultural competence. Nursing, nutrition, medicine and dentistry faculty developed the case study on adult obesity. The videos include six interviews of a standardized patient from different professional perspectives.

"The module has embedded videos and websites that enrich the student learning environment, creating an 'augmented reality,'" said Lobert. "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, etcetera, allowing the students to experience the patient's environment and develop patient-centered recommendations in collaboration with the interprofessional team and the patient/family."

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.

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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."

Prospective Student Events Planned



Pictured at the Aug. 13 open house is a prospective student speaking to Dr. Rebecca Rives, director of the Nursing and Health Care Administrator track, about admission to the MSN program.

Students interested in learning more about any of the School of Nursing's bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs will have several opportunities this spring to visit the school.

High School Visit Day on Feb. 7 is open to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about the nursing profession. Sessions will cover admission to nursing school, as well as tours of the school and campus. Reservations are required, and space is limited.

An open house will also be held in February. On Feb. 18, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the school will open its doors to prospective students who are interested in having their transcripts evaluated, learning more about the graduate and undergraduate programs, touring the campus and meeting program directors. Reservations are not required.

For more information about these events, please email nsrecruiter@umc.edu or call (601) 984-6262.

Continuing Education Goes Green

Electronic event registration and eLearning classes are now available through Continuing Health Professional Education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. These new online tools provide easy access to CE credit history and certificates; registration for upcoming events; and eLearning classes.

For more information, please visit www.umc.edu/conted or call (601) 984-1300.

Student Testimonial



It was an easy decision to choose nursing as a career for me. I enjoy helping people, as well as getting to know them on a more personal level. The UMMC School of Nursing is the top-rated nursing school in the state and is located on the campus of the state's only Level 1 trauma center, and in order to maximize my education, I felt that this was the best school for me to attend.

- Brad Haas, Traditional BSN - Class of 2014

Upcoming Events

MLK Holiday

Monday, Jan. 20

Healthcare Leadership Summit

Friday, Jan. 31

Reignite Career Fair

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Financial Wellness Seminar

Wednesday, Feb. 5

High School Visit Day

Friday, Feb. 7

SON Open House

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Spring Break Begins

Monday, March 10

Mental Health Nursing Conference

Friday, March 21

DNP Institute (DSU)

Friday, March 21

Oglevee Day/Alumni Meeting

Thursday, April 3

STT Research Symposium

Thursday, April 3

SON Information Session

Thursday, April 3

APRN Conference

Thursday, April 17

Easter Holiday

Friday, April 18

Honors Day

Friday, May 2

Nursing Alumni Announcements and Happenings



Pictured at the American Heart Association Start! Heart Walk are "Heart Throbs" team captains Dr. Jennifer Robinson, Anna Claire Cauthen and Michelle Burns.



Alumni board members took a tour of the recently remodeled simulation lab and student media center in November. Here, Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing (third from left) talks to the group about the simulation lab's new conference room where students debrief after simulation experiences.

Happy New Year! I want to express my appreciation to Paul Boackle for his incredible leadership of our alumni association for the past two years. In the midst of serving our country in Afghanistan, he still managed to be an active president and mentor to me. Thank you for your dedication to the UMMC nursing alumni association and to our country. You are awesome!



*Michelle Burns
Nursing Alumni
President*

The UMMC School of Nursing and Alumni Association Heart Throbs team raised \$2,788 for the American Heart Association. Thank you for donating money and buying T-shirts to help the team! We will be joining forces with our nursing students again this year to help with some of their projects. In the meantime, keep up with School of Nursing events and news by "liking" their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UMMCSchoolofNursing.

Nominations are now being accepted for 2014-2015 Alumni Association board positions. I hope you will consider nominating someone for this role. To qualify, a nurse must have graduated from the UMMC School of Nursing and be able to attend semi-annual meetings in Jackson, Miss. To nominate someone, email Michelle Burns, at MJBurns@umc.edu, by February 15. Please include the name, phone number and email address for the nominee.

I want to say a special "thank you" to our outgoing board members. They are Krystil Crick, Tina Higgins, Rene Menogan and Tara Price. New board members, who began their term in October, are Angela Beem, Eva Castle Tatum, Juanita Graham and Dorothy Aultman-Abrams. Amber Arnold assumed her role as president-elect. Welcome to each of you!

I am grateful for the year we have had and excited for a new year filled with endless possibilities. I hope each of you have a wonderful new year!

Save the Date: Annual Alumni Meeting Slated for April 3

The School of Nursing annual alumni meeting will be held Thursday, April 3, in the University of Mississippi Medical Center Student Union. The meeting's theme is "Teamwork in Integrated Health Care." Participants can expect exciting speakers with innovative information during the Sigma Theta Tau symposium, Oglevee Papers Day, Driskell lecture and poster presentations. At the Nursing Alumni Chapter luncheon, the nursing alumnus of the year and School of Nursing classes of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004 will be honored. The day's events will start at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The alumni reception will follow at Nick's Restaurant at 5 p.m. For more information, call (601) 984-1115.

Wartime Nursing: Past Alumni President Shares Tales of Military Nurse



Pictured are Paul Boackle and BSN student Jessica Harris discussing military nursing.

What began as simply a common reading project quickly became much more. In October, Oxford Traditional BSN students read “The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier’s Education,” a book chosen by the University of Mississippi for campus-wide discussion. Written by Craig Mullaney, the autobiography describes Mullaney’s experiences as a combat veteran in Afghanistan, as well as the unshakeable guilt he felt for being unable to bring all his men home. As part of that discussion, past-nursing alumni president Paul Boackle (BSN ’01) discussed the unforgiving minutes he experienced during multiple military tours in Afghanistan.

“Paul shared what it is like to be a nurse in the military and in war zone. He discussed leadership and the unforgiving minutes he has experienced in nursing,” said Dr. Robin Wilkerson, director of the North Mississippi campus and RN-MSN program. “The students enjoyed his talk very much, as did the faculty. It seemed to make a very big impact on the students.”

Boackle is an experienced nursing leader and flight nurse. He currently flies with the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s AirCare helicopter transport program and is an active member of the Mississippi Air National Guard. Additionally, he has over 12 years of experience in emergency, trauma, pediatrics and transport nursing, as well as over 10 years of military nursing experience that includes flight, emergency, intensive care and the care of military working dogs. Paul has specialized training and holds nursing certifications in Transport, Critical Care, Pediatrics, Emergency, and Neonatal Care.

Sigma Theta Tau International Elects Alumna to Leadership Role



Dr. Sonja Fuqua

Dr. Sonja Fuqua (BSN ’82, MSN ’96) has a long, storied involvement with Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

That 27-year relationship began when Fuqua was inducted to the School of Nursing’s Theta Beta chapter as a charter member in 1986. Throughout the better part of the next three decades, Fuqua served in nearly every leadership role for the local chapter: president, president-elect, newsletter editor, finance chair and a member on various committees. She also served in several regional leadership positions, including as a member of the Region 8 conference committee and chair of the awards committee.

She currently serves as the membership ambassador mentor and Region 8 coordinator, in addition to working on the Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee. In these roles, she attends all of Region 8’s 33 chapters’ events in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee; creates national connections and fosters collaborations; recruits and works with a regional committee to assist chapters; and consults with chapters virtually and in-person regarding strategic planning.

“I believe my efforts to celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service on a global level allow me to serve as a role model to students and faculty,” Fuqua said. “Also, as I interact with and travel to chapters across the region, many networking and collaboration opportunities can be shared with the School of Nursing. This position really gives the state of Mississippi and School of Nursing an opportunity to be highlighted on an international level.”

School of Nursing's Sigma Theta Tau Chapter Receives Award



Dr. Sonja Fuqua (center) accepted the award on behalf of the chapter. Pictured with her are Dr. Karin Morin, STTI past-president, and Dr. Patricia Thompson, STTI executive director.

At the Sigma Theta Tau International 42nd Biennial Convention in Indianapolis on Nov. 18, the School of Nursing's Theta Beta chapter received its second Chapter Key Award. Every other year, select STTI chapters throughout the world who excel in chapter-related activities, such as membership recruitment and retention; publicity and programming; professional and leadership development; and local, national and international collaboration. These chapters have the opportunity to apply for the prestigious award, and the School of Nursing's Theta Beta chapter was one of 78 recipients of the 2013 award. There are 492 STTI chapters throughout the world.

The School of Nursing's 27-year-old Theta Beta chapter also received the award in 2011.

Winners of the Chapter Key Award must demonstrate several levels of civic and academic engagement. After completing a rigorous application spreadsheet addressing activities across the biennium, applications are then judged by an awards committee from another region. For example, chapters receive credit for such activities as implementing a mentorship program; presenting at interdisciplinary meetings; collaborating with other chapters for programming; recruiting nurse leaders and student candidates; and participating in philanthropic activities.



Pictured are Theta Beta members Dr. Kate Fouquier; chapter president Kim Stonecypher; and Cheryl Hamill presenting the donation to a Stewpot representative in December.

Among the chapter's philanthropic activities was the food drive it organized for local food pantry Stewpot. The chapter's efforts not only included students, but also School of Nursing faculty and staff, as well as University of Mississippi Medical Center nurses and employees. Collectively, the chapter donated more than 200 non-perishables to the food pantry.

Other activities included the fall induction of several new members. Induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is based on academic achievement; candidates for membership from the undergraduate programs must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and rank in the upper 35 percent of the class. The following RN-BSN students were inducted into Sigma Theta Tau this August: Syretta Bishop, Pamela Smith Bobo, Linda Carter, Shelby Davis, Shartique Demus, Sarah Gilbert, Kelli Harris, Kimberly Kelley, Linda Mitchell, Richard Muirhead, Christina Parker, Walter Taylor, Amanda Walton, Katrina Watson and Emma Wikinson.



Pictured are the fall 2013 RN-BSN Sigma Theta Tau inductees with Theta Beta chapter president Kim Stonecypher (center).

The purpose of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor 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 nursing profession. For more information on membership, please visit <http://thetabeta.nursingsociety.org/home>.

Phi Kappa Phi Inducts 21 Graduate and Undergraduate Students

On Dec. 6, 21 School of Nursing graduate and undergraduate students were inducted into the national scholastic honor society Phi Kappa Phi. To qualify for membership, students must be seniors or second-semester juniors with high standards of scholarship and character. Graduate students must have distinguished records placing them among the top in their class.

New inductees include Jenny Caldwell, Tammy Caldwell, Katie Cleary, Brittany Coleman, Ali Crawford, Angela Duck, Taylor Elliott, Caroline Gilly, Hannah Gray, Ashley Haltom, Denise Henderson, Katie Lloyd, Michelle Palokas, Jordan Parker, Jennifer Roark, Rebecca Ross, Bobbi Sanders, Misty Stricklin, Lisa Terrell, Amanda Therrien and Brennan Williams.



Pictured from left to right are Michelle Palokas, Jordan Parker; Caroline Gilly; Brittany Coleman; Ashley Haltom; Dr. Kim Hoover, dean; Taylor Elliott; Katie Lloyd; Jennifer Roark; Katie Cleary; Denise Henderson; Brennan Williams; Tammy Caldwell; Rebecca Ross; Jenny Caldwell; Angela Duck; and Lisa Terrell.



Dr. Ralph Didlake, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, shakes the hand of new initiate Brennan Williams, as School of Nursing Dean Dr. Kim Hoover looks on at the Dec. 6 initiation ceremony. Williams was one of the School of Nursing's 21 "best and brightest" initiates who "will greatly influence economic, political, social and educational life in the coming decades," according to the organization.

Faculty, Staff Celebrate School's "Top 25" Ranking



The School of Nursing's online graduate programs were ranked No. 22 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report in 2013. To celebrate this accomplishment, commemorative T-shirts were made for all faculty and staff.



In 2013, the School of Nursing celebrated many sweet accomplishments: increased student enrollment, program expansion, high board certification and national examination pass rates. Icing on the cake was the No. 22 national ranking the school received.

The U.S. News & World Report list of top online graduate nursing programs, issued in January, is based on the results of peer-assessment surveys that were sent to deans, administrators and faculty at accredited nursing degree programs in the United States. Specifically interested in measuring the academic quality of online graduate nursing programs, the report lists the schools with the highest averages.

Three Students Receive MNF Stipends

The Mississippi Nurses' Foundation awarded stipends to three School of Nursing students, Kacy Jo Acree, an RN-BSN student; Mendy Nehrbass, an MSN student; and Estelle Watts, a PhD student. The stipend funds were raised through the Mississippi car tag "Nurses Touch Lives" program. Recipients received \$6,000 stipends and agreed to work as full-time registered nurses in Mississippi within the first two years following completion of their programs. Congratulations to the student recipients, and special thanks to the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation for continued support of nursing education.

Doctoral Students' Accolades Continue to Grow



Michael Parnell, University of Mississippi Medical Center chief pediatric ambulatory ops officer, presented an abstract at the 17th-annual Philosophy of Nursing Conference in Atlanta at Emory University. His presentation was titled, "A Framework for Research Ethics when Using Administrative Databases: Filling a Void in the Growing Field of Healthcare Resource Utilization." Parnell is a PhD student.

Florence Cooper, UMMC perioperative educator and PhD student, was recently named to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses revision panel. She also received the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation 2013 research grant. These seed grant monies are used by nurses to address health-care problems in Mississippi. Pictured is Rosalyn Howard, MNF executive director, presenting the research grant to Cooper.



DNP student **Joy Akanji**, an eight-year national officer in the African Christian Fellowship, USA organization, helped present on the topic of globalized medicine and humanitarian efforts taking place in Africa. The presentation was part of a larger discussion led by Dr. Felix Adah, professor of physical therapy. The meeting was sponsored by the UMMC Global Health Interest Group. Pictured from left to right: Global Health Interest Group adviser Dr. Jericho Bell with Akanji and

Dr. and Mrs. Adah. Akanji, from UMMC Hospital Education, was also recently asked to be a public policy committee member for the Association for Nursing Professional Development.

PhD student **Wren Hand** co-presented "Patient Satisfaction Bundles: Combining Quantitative and Qualitative Data in a Combined Display" at the Press Ganey National Client Conference in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 18. Hand is the JTN5 and psychiatric emergency services nurse manager for the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital.

PhD student **Jonathan Wilson**, UMMC director of emergency services, will lead the university's Jan. 17 common reading project. The project, which serves as an academic exercise to bridge campus divides, will include not only the campus-wide book read, but also group discussions on the topic of medical ethics. Sheri Fink's book, "Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital," will prompt discussion on medical ethics and health-care rationing during Hurricane Katrina.



Elementary School Benefits from Faculty Member's Vision



This summer, several students and faculty members teamed up with FoodCorps to build a shed to house gardening materials and educational items that are used during gardening time with the students.

Out of her doctoral research on barriers to good nutrition and physical activity in children grew an idea. The first phase of Dr. Molly Moore's brainchild included beds of fresh vegetables planted, tended and harvested by the students at the inner-city elementary school where she works as a nurse practitioner.

And as the crops blossomed so did the students' interest in nutrition.

As the project grew, so, too, did the gardens. What was initially a year-long project with one class of schoolchildren expanded to encompass beds of veggies that changed with the seasons and provided garden-based learning opportunities for nearly every student in the school of 400.

The gardens are a unique way to transform the schoolyard into a classroom and teach the children valuable gardening and agricultural skills, as well as several educational goals, including personal and social responsibility, said Willie Nash, FoodCorps/Economic Development Initiatives manager for the Mississippi Roadmap to Health Equity, the organization responsible for helping Moore put her research findings into motion.

"The students at Johnson are spending time in the school garden on a regular basis learning about garden preparation and maintenance, as well as healthy eating," Moore said.

With the implementation of garden-based learning, along with access to fresh produce, the students gained an innovative, hands-on educational experience. But the gardens were only the beginning.

Thanks to the generosity of Hinds County Supervisor Kenneth Stokes the second phase of Moore's doctoral research became a reality in October.

Moore's research, which began in 2009 and wrapped up three years later, found that there were a few reasons students reported not exercising, including perceptions that special clothing requirements and heightened physical abilities were necessary. With the construction of the walking track, those worries were put to rest, and the second part of Moore's research came to fruition.

"The walking track was completed recently, but already, the students at Johnson, as well as the staff and faculty, are enjoying a flexible and fun way to get physical activity," said Moore.

"It's a great feeling to know that the students at Johnson Elementary School are able to experience some unique outlets for learning about healthy eating and for engaging in physical activity."



On Nov. 22, Johnson Elementary students celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the school's new walking track.



Boss Receives Inaugural DAISY Faculty Award



On Oct. 28, Dr. Barbara J. Boss, professor of nursing and director of the DNP program, became the inaugural recipient of the School of Nursing's DAISY Faculty Award. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program that recognizes the very important role professors and instructors of nursing play in inspiring outstanding quality and compassionate patient care in nursing students.

Boss, who has worked for the School of Nursing for 34 years, received that number, plus some, in nomination letters.

"Other than my mom, Barbara Boss has been the most influential woman in my life," wrote Dr. Mary Stewart.



The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, Calif., and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little-known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Said Bonnie Barnes, president and co-founder of the DAISY Foundation, "We have been honoring these unsung heroes for the super-human work they do for 10 years with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Our DAISY nurses tell us often how important their nursing school instructors and professors were when they were in school and that they still hear their voices as they practice at the bedside. Given the tremendous pressure on schools of nursing to retain great teachers, we are very proud to remind these excellent faculty members that they truly make a difference in their students and patient care."

"Words really cannot capture the whole of my admiration, respect, and love for Barbara Boss," Stewart said. "She has encouraged me with her own stories of living and growing. One conversation over coffee with her can influence my thinking beyond measure. I am thankful for her perspective and insight - in every aspect of being human. Barbara shows the rest of us: This is how life is done."

University Recognizes Faculty and Staff for Service

Several School of Nursing faculty and staff received service pins this semester. Among those recognized for five years of service were Monica Wade, administrative assistant in the Office of Student Affairs; Dr. Cindy Luther, assistant professor and director of the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner tracks; Dr. Jennifer Robinson, associate professor of nursing; and Dr. Josie Bidwell, assistant professor of nursing. Ten-year service pins were given to Dr. Kim Hoover, professor of nursing and dean of the School of Nursing; Dr. Chris Powe, assistant professor of nursing; and Melissa McJunkins, Johnson Clinic patient services coordinator. Gaye Ragland, assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. Sean Abram, professor of nursing, received recognition for 15 years of service. Dr. Laura Schenk, associate professor of nursing, and Dr. Sharon Wyatt, professor of nursing and Harriet G. Williamson Chair of Nephrology Nursing, were recognized for 20 years of service. Congratulations to all.

American Heart Association Elects Robinson as Fellow



*Dr. Jennifer
Robinson*

The American Heart Association's Council on Cardiovascular Nursing recently elected Dr. Jennifer Robinson, associate professor of nursing, as a fellow. As a Fellow of the American Heart Association (F.A.H.A.), Robinson joins a rank of other leading health-care professionals who share scientific and professional accomplishments and volunteer leadership, with a specific interest in cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Robinson, since joining the School of Nursing in 2008, has been an active volunteer for the American Heart Association, often serving as the Start! Heart Walk's team captain. Likewise, her program of interest is in physical activity and neighborhood context, with an emphasis on cardiovascular health disparities associated with geographic location and socioeconomic position.

Pediatric Journal Publishes Faculty Member's Paper

Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing, had a paper accepted for publication in "Journal of Pediatric Nursing." Moore's paper, "Barriers to Physical Activity and Healthy Diet among Children Ages 6 through 13 in a Mississippi Elementary School" is an article in-press and will be available in print 2014.

Faculty Member Serves on New Journal's Editorial Board

Dr. Savina Schoenhofer, professor of nursing, serves on the editorial advisory board for the new peer-reviewed "Journal of Art and Aesthetics in Nursing and Health Sciences," a biannual publication that, according to the journal, serves as a "forum for nurses and those in health-care disciplines to share their expressions of caring in art forms including poetry, dance, paintings, essays, and other aesthetic illustrations." To view the inaugural issue, published last fall, visit <http://nursing.fau.edu/?main=1&nav=937>.

Konkle-Parker Receives Nurse Researcher of the Year Award

Dr. Deborah Konkle-Parker, associate professor of nursing, received one of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's 2013 Excellence in Nursing awards. Konkle-Parker received the Nurse Researcher of the Year Award for her HIV research efforts. She is the principal investigator of the Delta Region AIDS Education and Training Center and Women's Interagency HIV Study. She also works as a nurse practitioner for the UMMC Division of Infectious Diseases.

RWJF Awards Henderson Nursing Fellowship



*Dr. Kristi
Henderson*

Dr. Kristi Henderson, associate professor of nursing, was named one of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's executive nurse fellows. She was one of 21 in the nation chosen for the 2013 cohort.

According to the RWJF website, the program is a "three-year advanced leadership program for nurses who aspire to lead and shape health care locally and nationally. Fellows strengthen their leadership capacity and improve their abilities to lead teams and organizations in improving health and health care." Henderson serves as the University of Mississippi Medical Center's chief advanced practice officer and director of telehealth.

More than 38 Groups Benefit from Students' 3,200 Hours of Service

Conducting blood pressure and BMI screenings; educating patients on how to conduct self-examinations; administering flu vaccinations; building homes with Habitat for Humanity; teaching health classes at local middle schools; and organizing toy drives were just a few of the School of Nursing's fall volunteer efforts.

They also participated in the National Night Out against Crime with the Jackson Midtown Partners and the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi's Camp Kandu, a camp for children with diabetes. Here, students engaged and provided educational information to both children with diabetes and their families.



But that's not all. On Saturdays, School of Nursing students volunteered for UMMC-affiliated events, including Spooky U, a trick-or-treat extravaganza for children's hospital patients. They also have efforts underway to recycle unused lab supplies to contribute to humanitarian efforts and collect basic hygiene products for those served by the School of Nursing's Mercy Delta clinics.

"Service-learning activities that emphasize specific learning outcomes, allow students the opportunity to integrate classroom learning in a community context, extending learning and practice beyond institutional walls and eliminating boundaries to practice and service," said Tammy Dempsey, director of student affairs.

All graduate and undergraduate nursing students are asked to complete a minimum of eight service-learning hours per year. Service-learning activities are pre-approved by Dempsey and align with a specific set of learning outcomes. Students participated in at least 38

service-learning activities across the state during the 2013 fall semester, contributing more than 3,200 hours to the community.

"It is a purposeful connection between classroom learning and community learning. Service learning affords reflection on how these intertwine and influence the growth of the student, personally and professionally, while providing a service to the community."

- Dr. LaDonna Northington

"Participating in this fall's service-learning activities has given me the opportunity to gain more leadership experience, as well as give back to both our medical community and local community," said senior Traditional BSN student Anna Claire Cauthen, who led the School of Nursing's American Heart Association walk team.



"Service learning helps a person see beyond his or her own views and expand on deeper concepts allowing that person to take a walk in somebody else's shoes. The School of Nursing did a wonderful job with this service-learning activity, and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Walk to End Alzheimer's team captain Shelby Sirmon, a senior Traditional BSN student.

"Students meet the people they are serving within their environment adding another dimension to student learning, often resulting in greater understanding and compassion for those they are serving," Dempsey said.

Dr. LaDonna Northington, director of the Traditional BSN program, has witnessed this enrichment firsthand.

“Service learning allows the students to develop relationships and make connections that might not otherwise happen. It is a purposeful connection between classroom learning and community learning. Service learning affords reflection on how these intertwine and influence the growth of the student, personally and professionally, while providing a service to the community,” Northington said.

Katie Lee Lloyd, a Traditional BSN student, will graduate in May. She has already learned a priceless lesson, one that she will carry with her throughout her nursing career: the value of mentorship, empowerment and service to the larger community.



This fall, she led the student body as team captain for Mississippi's Walk for Diabetes, in addition to spearheading the school's Mississippi Association of Student Nurses "Breakthrough to Nursing" project, alongside classmate Presley Forrester. Through these students' efforts, more than \$1,000 was raised for the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, and more than 168 Mississippi children were mentored by nursing students and inspired to consider careers in nursing.

“Giving back to the community provides us with the opportunity to improve the lives of those around us, as well our own. I am so proud of all the work the School of Nursing has done this year, and feel so fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful group,” Lloyd said.

Service learning is not limited to undergraduate students, though.

RN-MSN student Amber Hill, a student in the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner track, volunteers her time to teach childbirth and breastfeeding classes in Greenwood, Miss. Hill, a maternal-child nurse, works in labor and delivery, the newborn nursery and postpartum.

“It really excites me to have expecting mothers and fathers interesting in learning about the processes of labor and delivery. It warms my heart to know they care and that I am able to give them the tools they need to enjoy this special event in life.”

- Amber Hill

“It was only after I began working all three areas that I was able to see the need for childbirth/breastfeeding classes,” Hill said. “The majority of our patients have no clear idea of what to expect before, during or after having their baby.”

Upon seeing this need, Hill sprang into action and, in her time off of work, taught both a class and two individual sessions, providing individuals and families with the education they need to prepare for the arrival of their little ones.

“It really excites me to have expecting mothers and fathers interesting in learning about the processes of labor and delivery. It warms my heart to know they care and that I am able to give them the tools they need to enjoy this special event in life,” Hill said.

“Our student service experiences focus on health equity and cultural humility, promoting advocacy, cultural competence and a greater understanding of diversity and health disparity,” said Dempsey. “We believe leadership and service go hand in hand, and by providing these service-learning experiences for students, we help to develop them as leaders to make an impact on the needs they encounter in the practice of their profession for a lifetime.”

Oxford BSN Students Donate 42 Operation Christmas Child Boxes



In the spirit of thanksgiving and goodwill, Lauren Hart, a Traditional BSN senior on the Oxford campus, rallied her classmates together, and together, 22 students collected enough toys to brighten the holidays for more than 42 children. "It's amazing what a difference even a class of 22 can make," said Dr. Robin Wilkerson, director of the North Mississippi campus. "Lauren took this on herself, with no prompting from anyone, and the students responded," she said. Forty-two boxes were created, and there were toys to spare. The students' donations were dropped off at the Wesley Foundation so that additional boxes could be packed and mailed.

Students Mentor 168 Schoolchildren, Win State MASN Award

Promoting the nursing profession, encouraging diversity in the workforce and reaching out to underserved areas of the community, the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses' Breakthrough to Nursing project made an impact on the lives of 14 dozen area schoolchildren. The School of Nursing's MASN chapter created a peer mentorship program and letter-writing campaign with three Jackson schools, Rowan Middle School, Johnson Elementary School and Brown Elementary School. Questionnaires were sent home with each child, employing the children to ask any nursing-related questions.

"The junior, senior and accelerated students each wrote a personalized letter back to the students answering their questions and giving them insight about nursing and encouragement to pursue their dreams," said senior Traditional BSN student and School of Nursing MASN president Katie Lee Lloyd. Individualized letters were sent to 168 students, and for these efforts the School of Nursing's MASN chapter received the state's Breakthrough to Nursing Project of the Year Award. The award came with a \$500 scholarship.



Great Delta Bear Affair Makes "Beary" Big Impact



At least 66 people received health services from School of Nursing Accelerated BSN and graduate students at the Great Delta Bear Affair in Rolling Fork, Miss. A yearly festival celebrating Teddy Roosevelt's famous bear hunt and the invention of the Teddy bear, the Oct. 26 event included musical entertainment, children's activities, a 5K run and health screenings for the community. In collaboration with the Sharkey Issaquena Health Network, the health screenings were conducted on the Mercy Delta Express and included blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol and glucose screenings. Students also assisted with the 5K. "It was great fun and a wonderful service-learning experience for our students," said Dr. Lisa Haynie, professor of nursing and director of the Mercy Delta Express Project. Pictured are Accelerated BSN students Leigh Anne Foil and Megan Flint.

Students Raise More Than \$11,000 for Health Organizations



Hundreds of School of Nursing graduate and undergraduate students this fall laced up their sneakers to raise both money and awareness.

On Sept. 14, under the leadership of Traditional BSN senior and Nursing Student Body president Shelby Sirmon, the School of Nursing had the Alzheimer's Association's largest walk team and second-highest fundraising total. Comprised of 137 graduate and undergraduate students, the team raised nearly \$3,000 for essential Alzheimer's disease research and support services.



"By participating in this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease, I learned just how big of an impact our school and community could make on such an important cause," Sirmon said. "By collaborating with each respective school within UMMC, this walk taught me the importance of how much more can be accomplished when you work as a team, and that two heads truly are better than one."

Mississippi's Walk for Diabetes, benefitting the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, was held Oct. 6. The School of Nursing super hero-themed team, led by captain Katie Lee Lloyd, successfully raised more than \$1,000. Funds raised support Camp Kandu, a camp for children with diabetes, in addition to other diabetes support services.



"Developing nurse leaders to improve health through unique community-based systems serving vulnerable populations' is one of the school's areas of distinctiveness. Participation in these community-based, health-promotion activities is just one way that we are developing nurse leaders and fulfilling our school's mission to improve health within and beyond Mississippi," said Tammy Dempsey, director of student affairs.

On Oct. 19, a group of Accelerated BSN students participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's walk. Led by student Jennifer Simmons, the class raised approximately \$4,500 for Type 1 diabetes research.

Next, the School of Nursing partnered with the University of Mississippi Medical Center's nursing staff, as well as School of Nursing alumni, to form the "Heart Throbs" walk team. More than 65 walkers participated in the Nov. 2 event. Spearheaded by senior Traditional BSN student Anna Claire Cauthen, the "Heart Throbs" successfully raised \$2,788 for the American Heart Association's educational and research efforts.

"What our students have done is really quite remarkable and a demonstration that much can be done with little when we join our efforts and resources," Dempsey said. "Students are learning by experience the value of their contributions, how to leverage resources and the strength of their voice to influence others to action and service."

Semester in Review

School of Nursing Hosts National Faculty Development Workshop



More than 80 nursing faculty, DNP clinical partners and graduate students from across the state attended a daylong faculty development workshop Nov. 15 at Table 100 Conference Center in Flowood, Miss. The School of Nursing, in collaboration with the Mississippi Educational Consortium for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice, hosted the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses workshop. Part of a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the workshop included educational resources and training designed to “enhance the ability of faculty in master’s and doctoral nursing programs to teach quality and safety competencies,” according to the

QSEN website. The QSEN project addresses quality and safety competencies for nursing, teaching strategies that incorporate these competencies into curricula and faculty-development resources that support these goals.

Some of the Nov. 15 panelists included the following national content experts: Dr. Karen N. Drenkard, executive director, American Nurses Credentialing Center; Dr. Jean E. Johnson, dean and professor, George Washington University School of Nursing; Esther Emard, chief operating officer, National Committee for Quality Assurance; and Kathy McGuinn, special projects director, American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Panel Discussion Fuels Peer Mentorship

A packed room full of junior Traditional BSN students listened, asked questions and took notes at a Nov. 11 externship panel discussion led by their peers. A topic of great interest to the students, externships are an opportunity for BSN students to fine-tune their clinical skills during the summer between the junior and senior year of nursing school, learn more about a particular nursing specialty of interest to them, earn course credit and make a little extra money while doing it. Because of this win-win arrangement and the competitiveness of the externship programs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and other hospitals, the students turned out in droves to pick their peers’ brains and learn more about the application process.

BSN Students Pledge to Uphold Honorable and Professional Behavior



The School of Nursing held its annual student honor code ceremony Monday, Nov. 11, at the Jackson Medical Mall. Following a keynote address by Dr. Ralph Didlake, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, on the subject of integrity and accountability, class officers introduced the code and read the preamble and standards of behavior. All junior and senior Traditional BSN students then recited in unison the commitment to uphold the code for honorable and professional behavior, a guideline for expected academic, personal and professional conduct. Pictured signing the honor code are Chloe Guillot and fellow junior Traditional BSN students.