



School of Nursing
The University of
Mississippi Medical Center

Spring 2013 • Alumni Special Issue

vital signs

Volume 3: Issue 3

In This Issue:

Announcements 2

- Student Lounge Reopens
- SON Connects with Alumni Via Facebook
- Job Bank Offers Employment Opportunities

News You Can Use 3

- Alumni Greetings
- Student Testimonial
- Upcoming Events

Kudos 4-7

- Graduate Programs Receive No. 22 Ranking
- BSN Programs Set the Bar
- Dean Wins Nightingale Award

Semester in Review 8

- Service Learning Takes Shape
- Open House Showcases Programs
- Faculty, Staff and Students Participate in Taste of the U

Graduate Programs Earn National Recognition



Ranked No. 22 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, the School of Nursing's graduate nursing programs continue to grow in size and prestige.

The report, 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.

"Certainly, being ranked as one of the country's top 25 graduate nursing programs speaks volumes about the quality of our graduate degree programs, but more importantly, I think the success of our alumni speaks even louder," said Dr. Marcia Rachel, School of Nursing associate dean for academic programs.

Doctoral Alumni Highlight Educational Benefits

While alumni of each of the school's graduate programs have long had a track record of success, the Ph.D. in Nursing program's graduates, perhaps, have some of the most storied accomplishments.

"After completing the Ph.D. program, I received a scholarship to pursue additional training in New Zealand—an amazing professional and personal development opportunity," said 2006 Ph.D. in Nursing graduate Dr. Fleetwood Loustalot, team lead for the CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Prevention's Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Services team.

"Now on staff at the CDC, I draw on the foundational training that I received at UMMC daily."

*- Dr. Fleetwood Loustalot
2006 Ph.D. in Nursing graduate*

"The training further qualified me for a competitive fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention. Now on staff at the CDC, I draw on the foundational training that I received at UMMC daily," he said.

"As the only academic health sciences center in Mississippi and home of the region's state-of-the-art basic science nursing lab, our Ph.D. students have rich resources to develop their optimal career trajectories," said Dr. Mary Stewart, director of the Ph.D. in Nursing program.

continued on page 4...



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

Newly Renovated Media Center Reopens as Student Lounge



After more than 12 months of planning and renovating, the School of Nursing student lounge's facelift is complete. The newly refurbished, modernized, professionally designed lounge area includes much more than a fresh coat of paint and new flooring. Renovations also included adding a group study area, lounge area, laptop bar and eat-in café with both a refrigerator and microwave. The finishing touches were made this spring, once a television was mounted to the wall and custom artwork was added to the freshly painted walls.

“Like” the School of Nursing on Facebook and Stay Connected

The School of Nursing wants to hear from you. There are multiple ways to keep up with your alma mater. Connect via Facebook and update your information with the Alumni Affairs office. E-mail nsrecruiter@umc.edu with story ideas and achievements.



“Like” the SON on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/UMMCSchoolofNursing/>

Update your information with Alumni Affairs:

alumni@umc.edu or 601-984-1115

Volunteer. Mentor. Get involved with the SON:

tdempsey@umc.edu or 601-984-6252

Online Job Bank Available to Students and Alumni



Did you know that the School of Nursing is frequently contacted by employers seeking outstanding graduates to fill job openings?

Check out the online job bank for positions available to nurses at various education levels.

http://www.umc.edu/son/job_postings

Editor's Notes

This publication is published biannually by the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. Please direct comments, suggestions or questions to Coordinator of Student Recruitment and Marketing Kim Ferguson: nsrecruiter@umc.edu.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center
School of Nursing
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216-4505
601-984-6262
<http://www.umc.edu/son>

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



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

Alumni Greetings

Hello, Everyone,

Did you graduate from the UMMC School of Nursing? As graduates of our nursing school, we all have one thing in common: By default, we are all alumni of our nursing school! Some of you may have graduated from more than one program! We are fortunate to have an Alumni Affairs office that works on behalf of all nursing students and alumni. They are instrumental in helping the alumni stay connected, and they are very good at coordinating and facilitating nursing alumni events throughout the year.



*Michelle Burns
Nursing Alumni
President-Elect*

Here is the next event scheduled for 2013:

- School of Nursing Open House – August 13– This is a great way to show your kids and/or grandkids where you went to school! Some of us will be heard saying, “And, when I was here, we didn’t have these smart boards and computers!” Maybe your picture is on the wall (wearing the nursing cap) and they can see how your hair looked “way back then.” This is an exciting way to teach family members about the nursing profession and will provide an opportunity to meet and greet program directors.

Your Alumni Affairs Office does a terrific job helping us all stay connected. If it has been awhile since you updated your contact information, visit the Alumni Affairs webpage, www.umm.edu/alumni and click the “Address Change” link on the right.

I could not write anything to our alumni without mentioning Paul Boackle, our current president. Paul has been serving our country in Afghanistan since January. We send many warm wishes to him while he is away and anticipate his return this summer.

Michelle Burns, MSN, RNON
President-Elect

Upcoming Events

Oglevee/Driskell/STT Research Symposium
Thursday, April 25

Honors Day
Friday, May 10

RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN Orientation
Wednesday, May 15

Traditional and Accelerated BSN Orientation
Wednesday-Thursday, May 15-16

Pinning Ceremony
Thursday, May 23

Commencement
Friday, May 24

Memorial Day holiday
Monday, May 27

Classes start
Tuesday, May 28

MS Health Care Symposium on Health Literacy
Monday-Tuesday, June 17-18

Sickle Cell Nursing Conference
Friday, September 13

Annual Medical/Surgical Nursing Conference
Friday-Saturday, October 11-12

Student Testimonial



My experience in the MSN Nurse Educator track at UMMC was fantastic. The education I received through the program helped me gain real-world knowledge and experience, which I put into practice each and every day as a staff nurse educator. The program provided me with the expertise and education, which laid the foundation for a successful career as an educator. The flexibility of the program allowed me to complete my degree while continuing to work full time. I am so glad I chose to pursue my degree through this program, and I am proud to say I am a graduate.

- Jennifer Hargett, MSN, RN, ONC, University of Mississippi Medical Center RN Educator, MSN Nurse Educator Graduate, December 2012

Graduate Programs Earn National Recognition (cont.)

“Because of faculty mentoring and commitment to rigorous, relevant research, our graduates are able to assume leadership roles that influence nursing care across the nation.”

Indeed, the unique research opportunities available to School of Nursing students draw applicants from across the Southeast and, in turn, allow students to develop their own research programs and gain experience in research methods.

Dr. Anita Mitchell, associate clinical professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing, graduated from the Ph.D. in Nursing program in 2003. Since then, she has regularly utilized the education and research she obtained in the doctoral program.

“I was seeking a program based within a medical center so that there were more programs available for clinical research, and I wanted a program that had face-to-face classes instead of all online classes. I also knew that the University of Mississippi has a reputation for high quality in graduate education,” said Mitchell, who teaches both master’s and Ph.D. nursing students while also coordinating with her institution’s neonatology department’s research efforts.

Like the Ph.D. program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice program offers a combination of online and in-person classes and is kept intentionally small while continuing to receive more applicants than it has available slots, and like the Ph.D. program, the DNP program offers working nurses part-time and full-time plans of study while also providing them with supportive, nurturing faculty mentors who are leaders in their fields.

For that reason, the DNP program was a perfect fit for



Pictured from left to right: Ph.D. in Nursing students Wendy Lovelace and Danny Vining visit recent DNP graduate Dr. Jennifer McCaffery during her poster presentation at Oglevee Papers Day last spring.

2012 DNP graduate Dr. Jennifer McCaffery, a medical service/cardiology nurse practitioner at the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, Miss.

“The best part of my DNP experience was the interaction with colleagues,” she said. “Our small class size and face-to-face meetings allowed us to become a really close group that supported each other both in our academic pursuits but more importantly, after graduation as colleagues.”

“The faculty treated me like a peer. They encouraged me to reflect on my strengths and weaknesses so that we could formulate a learning plan that made sure I had all the tools I needed to be successful upon graduation. The program challenged me to grow, but I never felt that I was without the support that I needed,” McCaffery said.

“Because of faculty mentoring and commitment to rigorous, relevant research, our graduates are able to assume leadership roles that influence nursing care across the nation.”

**- Dr. Mary Stewart
director of Ph.D. in Nursing program**

While the rigor of the two doctoral programs is undeniable, equally undeniable are the programs’ real-world applications.

“The education I received in my Ph.D. program has made it possible for me to carry out successful research programs in my field. I have used every piece of information I learned on how to carry out research, but probably the greatest benefit has been the ability to analyze, interpret and think critically. These are priceless skills that were truly enhanced during my doctoral education,” Mitchell said.

“The Doctor of Nursing Practice program has taken my advanced nursing practice to the next level, especially in terms of effective advocacy for and care of patient populations,” said Dr. Molly Moore, 2012 DNP graduate and School of Nursing assistant professor.

Moore uses the skills she learned in the DNP program in her day-to-day interactions with patients at the school’s

local nurse practitioner-run clinic at Johnson Elementary, as well as in the education she passes on to the next generation of RNs.

“In addition to enhancing my own personal knowledge-base, the DNP program granted me the ability to provide a more effective level of care to the people of Mississippi,” Moore said.

Advancements, Accolades Follow MSN Grads

100 percent.

This is the percentage of 2012 Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner graduates who passed the national certification exams, which upon successful completion, award the nurse practitioner credential.

However, the success doesn't stop with the School of Nursing's nurse practitioner tracks.

Across the board, all six MSN tracks—Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, Nursing and Health Care Administrator and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner—are seeing both growth in their applicant pools, as well as augmented respect associated with the students graduating from them.

Amber Arnold began the MSN program's Nursing and Health Care Administrator track as a nurse manager for UMMC and was promoted to patient safety officer afterwards. Estelle Watts graduated from the Nursing and Health Care Administrator track and went on to accept a position with the Mississippi Department of Education, where she now oversees the state's school nurses. These are just two stories exemplifying the upward mobility and career advancement opportunities presented to the administrator track's graduates.

Students, like Arnold and Watts, are already reaping the benefits of their education from the School of Nursing, but they also will be the first to tell you that U.S. News and World Report's No. 22 national ranking only reaffirmed what they already knew.

“No surprise to me,” Arnold said.

The ranking, which speaks to online graduate nursing programs, encompasses not only the Nursing and Health Care Administrator, but also the Nurse Educator, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, something that

affords students great flexibility, without sacrificing quality or individualized faculty support. They are also tracks that offer students significant professional growth and versatility.

“The flexibility of the program was a perfect fit for me, a busy working mother and wife,” she said.

Recognition as one of the country's top online graduate nursing programs was also no shock to Eloise Lopez-Lambert, who upon completing the online

Nurse Educator track, was promoted to the position of UMMC nurse residency coordinator.

“The education and mentoring I received at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing have equipped me to empower the next generation of nurses with critical thinking, leadership, and professional nursing skills,” Lopez-Lambert said.

Similarly, the real-world applications of the Nursing and Health Care Administrator track resonate with Arnold. “My graduate nursing degree has helped me consider broad implications when facing challenges and difficult decisions in my profession,” Arnold said. “It has also inspired confidence in those decisions, knowing that I will continue to learn daily from the circumstances surrounding me.”



DNP student Amber Arnold presented her Capstone Inquiry, titled “Proactive Evaluation for a Team Training Initiative,” on Thursday, March 21. Arnold also completed the School of Nursing’s MSN program.

Excelling, Expanding and Exceeding: BSN Programs Continue to Set Bar

In 2012, 99 percent of the Traditional and Accelerated BSN students passed the National Council for Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) the first time they took it, nearly eight percentage points higher than the national average, according to a report received from the Mississippi Board of Nursing and results posted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

The school's historically high NCLEX pass rates, combined with its unparalleled interdisciplinary clinical learning opportunities, are what attracted Traditional BSN graduate Courtney Boatright to the School of Nursing.

"I loved being able to participate in clinicals at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. As a nursing student, I was able to see a variety of patients with uncommon diagnoses."

Boatright graduated from the Traditional BSN program in 2007 and immediately began working in the UMMC Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The clinical skills that she developed while training on the state's only academic health science campus, she said, shaped her into a strong, competent RN.

"I would recommend the Traditional BSN program to others because I felt about as prepared as you could possibly be coming out of nursing school," Boatright said. "The program also left me wanting even more education, which is why I chose to pursue graduate nursing studies."

Boatright will be finishing a DNP program later this year and currently is practicing as the lead nurse practitioner in the otolaryngology and communicative sciences department at the Medical Center.

As the first school in Mississippi to offer the bachelor's degree in nursing, the University of Mississippi has provided the state with thousands of Registered Nurses since opening its doors in 1948. Since then, the program has experienced significant growth, now receiving more than 400 applications for 90 spots. Likewise, according to

applicant statistics reports, the Accelerated BSN program often receives as many as five times the number of applicants as it has available spots.

2010 Accelerated BSN graduate Inga Pavalock was one of the program's 20 students. Since then, the Accelerated BSN program has expanded to 30 students.

Entering the program with a prior bachelor's degree in social work, Pavalock said that initially she was drawn to nursing because of the number of career opportunities, financial stability and upward mobility that it offered.

"Once I started the program and learned more about the discipline, I also realized that I personally enjoy taking care of the patients; their satisfaction is my inner-drive,

quality of care and motivation.

Also, I learned that the nursing discipline is very broad and offers a lot of self-realization options," she said.

Among those options was the master's degree in administration

that she earned in 2012 and the DNP degree that she will receive in 2014 from UMMC.

While the unique clinical learning environments certainly played a key role in molding her into the nurse she is today, Pavalock, who works in the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center as a medical-surgical RN also credits the program where it all began.

The fast-paced, intensive program, coupled with compressed content that was effectively delivered and a variety of face-to-face and online learning methods made the Accelerated BSN program a good fit for her. Perhaps, though, the greatest benefits were the interactions with the faculty, leaders in the field, preceptors and speakers, she said.

"They helped me tremendously to understand what nursing is, and played an important role in shaping me into the nurse I am today," said Pavalock. "I would absolutely recommend this program to others."

"They helped me tremendously to understand what nursing is, and played an important role in shaping me into the nurse I am today."

*- Inga Pavalock
2010 Accelerated BSN graduate*

Dean Hoover Takes Home SON Administrator of the Year Award



*Dr. Kim Hoover,
professor and
dean*

At the annual Nightingale Awards Gala on March 4, 2013, sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses Association and the Mississippi Nurses Foundation, the state's most outstanding nurses were honored. This year, Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, took home one of the top prizes, School of Nursing Administrator of the Year.

From Dr. Hoover's 124-page nomination packet:

"Dr. Hoover works tirelessly to pursue her goal of educating a workforce in nursing that is highly competent and compassionate. She is committed to improving the health of all Mississippians, not only by educating new nurses, but also by educating the teachers of nurses who will carry her vision to generations of nurses to come. Dr. Hoover has been instrumental in developing new nursing programs in response to workforce needs of the state and creating opportunities for interprofessional education."

- Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Mississippi Medical Center

"Dr. Hoover leads with passion and desire for the school to be the best. She models a caring attitude and sets the bar high for achievement. She displays forward thinking on real-world issues that face the school and its students. She is the protector of the school and its culture of learning and service."

- Dr. Carl Mangum, Associate Professor, School of Nursing

"She is truly a professor, teacher, collaborator, leader and innovator, a role model with a passion for nursing and a passion for teaching, but most of all, a passion for mentoring students to reach far beyond their imagination. I am forever grateful for her inspiration."

- Eloise Lopez-Lambert, Nurse Resident Program Coordinator, University of Mississippi Medical Center; graduate-MSN program

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with Dr. Hoover at the Habitat Build Day. I was impressed by her willingness to get her hands dirty and also by how hard she worked."

- Paul Munn, Traditional BSN student

"Dean Hoover holds herself to the highest standards and is committed to helping each of us achieve our personal best. Dean Hoover has created a work environment that supports innovation, recognizes good ideas and accomplishments and is willing to challenge the status quo to move an idea or project forward. Her warmth and genuine, caring spirit makes working for the UMMC School of Nursing an absolute joy."

- Dr. Kate Fouquier, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

"She regularly attends classes as both an observer and contributor. In doing so, Dr. Hoover has further earned my respect, and likely that of others at the School of Nursing."

- J. Michael Parnell, UMMC Department of Emergency Medicine Business Administrator; current Ph.D. student



Pictured from left to right are the UMMC Nightingale Award winners: Susan Allbritton, Cissy Bailey, Guyolyn Ousterhout, LeAnne Adcock, Darlenia Andrews, Dr. Kim Hoover and Dr. Kaye Bender, past dean of the School of Nursing and 2013 Hall of Fame inductee.

Semester in Review

Service Learning Takes Shape at Habitat for Humanity



Last fall, School of Nursing students and faculty participated in the picnic and health fair hosted by Habitat for Humanity for their homeowners. Students provided information to picnickers on BMI, blood pressure, healthy eating and exercise. Three weeks later, more than 70 School of Nursing students, faculty and staff helped in the completion of two Habitat homes in the Jackson area. This spring, the School of Nursing joined in the Habitat for Humanity's Healthcare Build efforts involving UMMC, Baptist Health Systems and St. Dominic's.

Open House Showcases SON Programs and Services



The School of Nursing hosted an open house for prospective students and their families on Feb. 12. More than 50 visitors attended the event to tour the simulation and skills lab, talk to program directors, meet with representatives from the Registrar and Financial Aid offices and tour the facility. To the left, Tori White, senior Traditional BSN student, gave a tour of the School of Nursing to two future nurses—a mother and her daughter; one tour stop included the simulation lab, home to SimMan 3G. To the right, Dr. Susan Lofton, director of the RN-BSN program, was one of many program directors on site to field specific program-related questions.

There's No Place Like...the School of Nursing



On Feb., 23, amateur chefs from across the Medical Center campus, adorned in an array of colors, costumes, themes and personas, prepared and served culinary bites to Taste of the U attendants. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefitted the UMMC Alliance, a "volunteer organization that promotes goodwill and fellowship through support of patient needs, UMMC chapel, university support funds and art acquisitions," according to the UMMC website. Pictured are some of the School of Nursing's "Wizard of Oz" participants.