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End-of-Year Activities Commemorate Achievements

In 31 days, the School of Nursing awarded \$200,000 in scholarships, honored 150 students and clinical preceptors, oriented 250 new students, pinned 126 new RNs and 56 returning nurses and graduated 149 bachelor's, master's and doctoral students.

Indeed, May was a month marked by numbers.

At the May 10 Honors Day, the School of Nursing celebrated the accomplishments of students both in and out of the classroom, in addition to honoring the service of clinical master preceptors.

Several groups of students were recognized, including student ambassadors, Hearin and Robert Wood Johnson scholarship recipients, Sigma Theta Tau and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductees, Dean's List recipients and members of Who's Who among Students in American Colleges and Universities.



"She would watch as I performed tasks and provided awesome feedback; she was very patient with me," said Accelerated BSN student Ebony Brown of her preceptor Beverly VanBuren, UMMC Orthopedics. Pictured are Brown, VanBuren, winner of a master preceptor award, and Dr. Kim Hoover, School of Nursing dean.

Many individuals received awards for their academic achievements, leadership capacity, exceptional clinical skills, commitment to practicing nursing in Mississippi, research interests, community involvement and desire to practice within a specific field or population of nursing, among other criteria. In total more than \$200,000 was awarded in scholarships and awards to at least 150 students and clinicians.

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Awarded to a second-semester junior who has not only a minimum GPA of 3.5 but also actively participates in extracurricular activities and demonstrates a commitment to the nursing profession, the Yvonne Pressgrove Bertolet Award this year was given to Brennan Williams. Pictured with Williams are Bob and Yvonne Bertolet and Dr. Kim Hoover.

From the Dean's Desk



Dr. Kim Hoover

Another academic year has ended, and we are once again, full steam ahead. The incredible accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students provide a strong foundation for us to continue to build our distinctiveness. You will read about new clinics opening, student and faculty awards and honors, scholarly achievements and service to communities throughout Mississippi. These successes allow us to prepare nurses who are better able to meet the challenging health-care needs of Mississippians.

As the School of Nursing moves into the 2013-2014 academic year, our focus will be on creating the best educational environment possible, hardwiring our core values and partnering with campus and community stakeholders to expand our learning beyond nursing. We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year.

Teen Clinic Now Open

Effective April 15, the midtown UNACARE Health Center's services expanded to include after-hours teen health services. The Midtown Teen Wellness Clinic at UNACARE offers comprehensive health care in a youth-friendly environment to adolescents, ages 13 through 21. Services range from school and sports physicals, STD testing, counseling services, pregnancy testing, prenatal care and birth control. All services are confidential.

Under the directorship of Dr. Kate Fouquier, assistant professor of nursing and certified nurse midwife, the Midtown Teen Wellness Clinic is located at UNACARE at 258 East Fortification Street in Jackson, Miss., and appointments can be made by calling (601) 815-8230.

Open House Slated for Aug. 13

The School of Nursing will host an open house Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., for anyone interested in learning about the school's graduate and undergraduate programs. Representatives will be on-site to field questions about financial aid, student services, the application process and admission criteria.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet with program directors, as well as tour the school and view simulation lab demonstrations. Information on the school's Traditional BSN, Accelerated BSN, RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN, DNP and Ph.D. programs will be available. The event will take place in the foyer of the School of Nursing. Reservations are not required. For more information, call (601) 984-6262 or email nsrecruiter@umc.edu.

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."

STT Recognizes Faculty Member and Alumni



At the April 24 Theta Beta annual meeting, Dr. Rebecca Rives, associate professor of nursing and director of the Nursing and Health Care Administrator track, received the Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Award.

Other recipients of Theta Beta awards for nursing excellence were 1998 School of Nursing BSN graduate Neal

Loving, recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau Clinical Practice Award, who now works as a charge nurse on 5-North in UMMC, and Jennifer Hargett, UMMC 5-North nurse educator and 2012 MSN Nurse Educator track graduate, recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Education Award. Pictured from left to right are Loving, Rives and Hargett.

Graduates Honored with Daisy Awards for Exceptional Patient Care

“Chip spent many, many hours rocking Baby Boy and talking to him. Chip is a very good nurse with a big heart. Baby Boy could not tell you thank you, but he appreciates it from the bottom of his heart. ‘Thank you, Mr. Chippers!’”

This is just one nomination of many that Stuart “Chip” Wells, an RN from 5-Children’s, received. Nominations come from patients, family members and hospital staff, all describing nurses who go above and beyond the call of duty, who demonstrate compassion, kindness, tireless dedication to the profession and above all else, their patients’ well-being.

In the past six months, four School of Nursing alumni have received the Daisy Award for extraordinary nursing: Chip Wells (BSN, Class of 2012), Whitney Pleasant (BSN, Class of 2011), Julie Conley (RN-BSN, Class of 2013), Linda Carter (RN-BSN, Class of 2013). One current RN-BSN student Ben Patin also received a Daisy Award this year.

Student Testimonial



I chose the program at UMMC because of its professors, flexibility and its reputation. The best experience of the program occurred when we met with the students from other DNP programs, and we were able to discuss and exchange ideas related to our capstones.

The DNP from UMMC has advanced my career in my current work setting. The degree has enabled me to add a unique skillset that translates into research and scholarship in the clinic setting.

- C'sara Strong, DNP, MHA, FNP-BC; Lead Nurse Practitioner, Shelby County School Family Center; DNP Graduate, August 2012

Upcoming Events

Open house*

Tuesday, August 13

Classes begin

Monday, August 12

Labor Day holiday

Monday, September 2

Information session*

Friday, September 6

Sickle Cell Nursing Conference

Friday, September 13

PhD in Nursing spring admission application deadline

Tuesday, October 1

Information session*

Friday, October 11

Annual Medical/Surgical Nursing Conference

Friday-Saturday, October 11-12

RN-BSN, MSN and post-master's spring admission application deadline

Tuesday, October 15

Fall break

Monday-Friday, November 25-29

Thanksgiving holiday

November 28-29

*prospective student event

Ph.D. Students' List of Accomplishments Grows

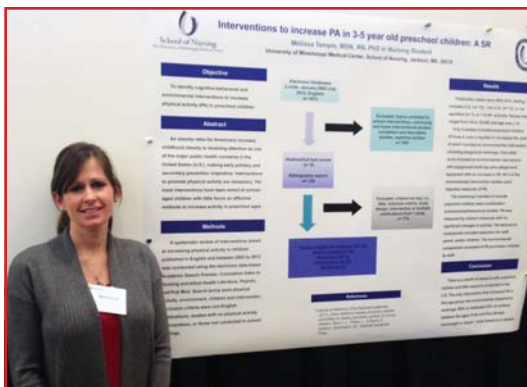
The following excerpts reference the achievements of current Ph.D. in Nursing students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

- **Wren Hand** published an article, "Ethical Issues Surrounding Weight Bias and Stigma in Healthcare." The article appeared in the December 2012 issue of "Online Journal of Health Ethics." Hand works at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as the JTN5 and UED/PES nurse manager.
- At a hospital leadership meeting in January, UMMC Bone More Transplant Nurse Manager **Pam Farris** was recognized by UMMC Chief Nursing Executive Officer Dr. Janet Harris. Farris was praised for her team's work, which resulted in significant improvements to the admission process for the hospital's chemotherapy patients.
- As part of her research practicum, on Jan. 30, **Wendy Bailes** presented Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems survey results by race and ethnicity to the UMMC Health Disparities Council, which is comprised of hospital physicians, nurses, interpreters and administrators. Bailes serves as assistant professor of nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.
- **Tina Higgins**, UMMC Office of Nursing Excellence manager, recently was appointed to the UMMC Institutional Review Board. The IRBs "review all human research protocols in accordance with applicable federal regulations, state laws and university policies," according to the UMMC Human Research Office webpage.



In May, **Florence Cooper**, UMMC perioperative educator, presented a poster abstract, "The Magic of Caring in the Operating Room: The Nursing Situation, Answering the Call, and Engaging in the Dance" at the 34th International Association of Human Caring Conference in Orlando, Fla. Pictured are Cooper and fellow Ph.D. student Katherine Rigdon.

- **Michael Parnell** will present an abstract, "A Framework for Research Ethics when Using Administrative Databases: Filling a Void in the Growing Field of Healthcare Resource Utilization," at the 2013 International Philosophy of Nursing Conference in Atlanta in September. Parnell serves as the business administrator for the UMMC Department of Emergency Medicine.



Melissa Temple presented a poster, "Interventions to Increase PA in 3-5 Year Old Preschool Children: A SR," at the Southern Nursing Research Society annual conference in March in Little Rock, Ark.

Temple was joined by fellow students Wendy Bailes, Connie Lewis and Danny Vining, as well as faculty member Dr. Jennifer Robinson. Temple serves as the director of the Department of Associate Degree Nursing at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Miss.

2013 BSN Graduate Wins Student of the Year Award



Kristin Hinton

Kristin Hinton, 2013 Traditional BSN graduate and Nursing Student Body president, took home the Associated Student Body Student of the Year Award. Recognized for her tireless philanthropic efforts and other leadership abilities, Hinton was instrumental in several School of Nursing service projects, including the School Cup competition, in which more than 4,000 items were collected for the School of Nursing's school-based clinics in Jackson, Miss.

"Her leadership and service is a wonderful reflection on the School of Nursing," said Tammy Dempsey, director of student affairs.

Nurses Sing BSN Students' Praises

Below is an email from BSN preceptor and registered nurse, Marlie Lawrence, that was sent to Joyce Johnson, instructor in nursing, in reference to two 2013 BSN graduates, who this past spring completed their senior synthesis in Batson Children's Hospital.

I have had the utmost privilege of precepting Kari Anna Tutor and Lynn Marshall. These girls are extraordinary. They are intelligent and always prepared for clinical. They are both self-starters-- I rarely have to prompt them to do anything because they have already done it. They are two of the most caring ladies I have ever met. Watching them interact with their patients and their patients' families is one of the greatest joys I have had this semester.... They make me excited for the future of nursing, because if there are many students like them, our future patients will be blessed.

Below is an email from preceptor and registered nurse, Anna Bishop, in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in regards to Nicole Garner, who is completing her summer externship in the Batson Children's Hospital PICU.

I was impressed from day one. From the first shift all the way to the last hour of last night's shift, she showed incredible initiative - was never prompted once by me to do anything! From very early on, it seemed like she grasped how the layout of what a shift looks like and stayed ahead of the game. Her questions were not only appropriate, but showed really high level thought processes - far beyond someone who's only been in nursing school for one year. She is great at anticipating what might happen next, as well. Catches on quickly. Pays such close attention to details!

Sigma Theta Tau Inducts Largest Class in School History



Ninety-nine undergraduate and graduate nursing students were inducted into the School of Nursing Theta Beta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, making the 2012-2013 class the largest class of inductees in chapter history. Sigma Theta Tau is an international honor society whose membership is comprised of not only graduate and undergraduate students, but also nursing faculty and professional nurses who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship, leadership and nursing achievements.

Pictured is Theta Beta chapter officer Bess Blackwell recognizing new inductee Jessica Sinclair, 2013 BSN graduate, at the Feb. 4 induction.

Burslem Honored with National Midwifery Award

The American College of Nurse-Midwives, the professional organization representing the country's certified nurse-midwives, in May awarded the School of Nursing's own Vicki Burslem, instructor in nursing, the prestigious Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award. According to the ACNM website, the award annually goes to a certified nurse-midwife who has "demonstrated vision and leadership" and "encouraged/created open-minded pathways in education for professional midwives."

Pictured from left to right are Burslem, her former practice partner Susie Sizemore and the award's namesake Dorothea Lang.



Cooper Receives CHSE Credential

Dr. Jan Cooper, associate professor of nursing, passed the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator certification examination. This is the first time that the exam, which serves as an official professional acknowledgment of specialized, expert knowledge and skills in simulation education, has been offered. According to the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, the organization that awards the certification, a candidate for the CHSE certification demonstrates not only an advocacy for simulation education, but also a knowledge of educational principles, practice and methodology in simulation.

ANCC Selects Lee for Expert Panel



Lishia Lee

Assistant Professor of Nursing Lishia Lee was chosen by the American Nurses Credentialing Center to serve on its Content Expert Panel for the ADN/BSN corporate specialty. Comprised of a select group of nurses from around the country, the panel includes nurse experts who are tasked with the development of the ANCC specialty examination. Lee attended a development meeting in Silver Spring, Md., in February.

"We value this panelist's contribution to the certification program and the nursing profession," said Dr. David Paulson, director of the ANCC's measurement services.

Four Inducted into Nelson Order

Four School of Nursing faculty members were inducted into the Norman C. Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence. Chosen for their outstanding contribution to education in the School of Nursing, they were honored at a luncheon and also recognized at Commencement in May.

From left to right are Dr. Tina Martin, professor of nursing and Accelerated BSN program director; Dr. Barbara Boss, professor of nursing and DNP program director; and Josie Bidwell, assistant professor of nursing. Not pictured is Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing.



Faculty and Staff Recognized for Service

The following faculty and staff received service pins this quarter: Shonda Brown, UNACARE medical office assistant, 15 years; Jennifer Hitt, assistant professor of nursing, five years; Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing, five years; Dr. Mary Stewart, professor of nursing, five years; and Lisa Vaughan, director of business operations, 15 years.

Mangum Awarded Homeland Security Funding

Dr. Carl Mangum, associate professor of nursing and emergency preparedness and response specialist, was awarded funding by the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security for Community Emergency Response Team training for UMMC faculty and staff. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency website, the program “educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.”

Pictured from left to right are newly CERT-certified School of Nursing staff members Amy Robertson, Martha Flowerday, Andre Thompson, Treaise Williams, Lisa Vaughan and Kim Ferguson after their live fire training.



Faculty Member Publishes Textbook

Professor of Nursing Dr. Savina Schoenhofer published a textbook, “Healthcare System Transformation for Nursing and Healthcare Leaders: Implementing a Culture of Caring,” which will be available this fall. Among the contributors to the publication was Wendy Bailes, current School of Nursing Ph.D. student and assistant professor of nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Healthy Lifestyles Sprout From Garden-Based Learning



Dr. Molly Moore

Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing and nurse practitioner at Johnson Elementary School, championed healthy lifestyle choices as part of her DNP Capstone Inquiry. The results: three gardens chocked full of fresh produce and an impending walking track for the 400-plus elementary students to enjoy.

“I personally think our gardens are a wonderful way to use the schoolyard as a classroom; reconnect students with the natural world and the true source of their food; and teach them valuable gardening and agriculture concepts and skills that integrate with several subjects, such as math, science, art, health and physical education and social studies, 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.

As part of her doctoral research, Moore was interested in learning about childhood obesity and the factors that most contribute to it.

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Healthy Lifestyles (cont.)



Three goals of garden-based learning are to “deliver hands-on nutrition education, build and tend school gardens, bring high-quality local food into public school cafeterias,” according to FoodCorps.



Seasonal produce is planted in the school’s three beds. The students are actively involved in planting the produce, as well as monitoring their growth.



Students buzzed with excitement to sample lettuce, cabbage, lima beans and a variety of other vegetables. Since no chemicals are used, the students can harvest the produce and eat it straight out of the garden.

Her end goal was to grow healthy lifestyles in the Johnson Elementary School students with whom she interacts daily.

“Because of its impact on growth, development and the ability to learn, nutrition plays a key role in a child’s life,” Nash said. “Learning about different foods and practicing healthy eating habits can greatly affect a child’s achievement, success and overall contentment. Because eating habits are adopted early in life, childhood is a good time to learn about nutrition.”

Part of a process that he calls “garden-based learning,” the students also participate in hands-on activities, tastings and even cooking demonstrations. While the children initially were resistant to eating the vegetables, Nash said that all of that has changed now. “If they plant it, they will eat it,” he said, as the students buzzed around the three beds, pulling, nibbling and laughing with excitement, while sharing advice for the best time to harvest carrots and other seasonal veggies.

“It tastes like mint.”

“It smells so good.”

“This is good in a salad.”

A program that began with the schools’ gifted program since has expanded to half the school. What’s more, cafeteria worker training, decreased BMIs and an impending parent garden are some of the other benefits being reaped from garden-based learning at Johnson Elementary. Moore has taken it one step further, though. Because healthy living doesn’t stop with good nutrition, she said, plans are in the works for a school walking track, something in the design stages now with a tentative 2014 construction date.

“All of you at Johnson and at FoodCorps have worked so hard to make the garden a success and to help improve the health and knowledge-base of the students at Johnson—it’s working. I want UMMC and the surrounding community to know what great work you are doing for the children of Mississippi,” Moore said.

End-of-Year Activities Commemorate Achievements (cont.)

On the eve of Commencement, nearly 200 students received their School of Nursing pin. The annual Pinning Ceremony, a tribute to the dedication and hard work of undergraduate and graduate students in their nursing school journeys, was held May 23 at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Miss.

“The awarding of the nursing pin is a special and significant event that dates back hundreds of years,” said Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing. “Over time, the pin came to symbolize the nursing school from which nurses graduated and as a symbol of service to others.”

Gaye Ragland, assistant professor of nursing, was selected by the student body to serve as keynote speaker, and after acknowledgements from both the nursing student body president and senior class president, Hoover and Dr. Marcia Rachel, associate dean for academic programs, pinned the customary School of Nursing lapel pins onto 126 BSN students and 56 graduate students.

For many, the Pinning Ceremony was a relief, symbolic of a journey that seemed at times like it would never end. For others, all those months of late-night study sessions, weekend clinical rotations, APA-style papers and projects only expedited the process, making time pass faster than expected. In the air was a mix of emotions: liberation, pride, humility, excitement, bittersweet nostalgia.

“To quote my fellow classmate Kelsey Gallagher, as she sat with a dying patient, ‘The only thing that I heard and felt while her heart rate ceased was mine, and I realized how fragile we truly are and how real God is.’ We have



Dr. Marcia Rachel, associate dean for academic programs, pinned Oxford BSN graduate Alexandria Kelley, one of 126 undergraduates who received the customary nursing lapel pin.

learned the impact of illness on the human body and how greatly the presence of nursing can impact that,” said senior class president Tori White.

Following the pinning of the newly minted School of Nursing graduates, 182 voices in unison recited the Nightingale Pledge, “With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physicians in their work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.”

As White recited the list of philanthropic events that the graduates participated in over the course of 24 months together, it became apparent: The recitation of the Nightingale Pledge, while only symbolic of the ideals for which Nightingale stood, was part of a larger set of values already being lived out by the nurses in the room.

On May 24, the Class of 2013 stood together one last time. As their names were called one by one, some beamed, while others wiped tears from their eyes. While, for some, their educational journeys were over; for others, it was just beginning.

“It has been a busy and exciting two years, and we could not have done it without the encouragement from friends and family members. We also owe a great deal of thanks to the faculty and staff of the School of Nursing for being excellent teachers and excellent role models, as well,” White said. “We are proud to say that we are graduates of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing.”

BSN Graduate Resolves to “Keep Kids Kool”



During her senior synthesis, BSN student Maranda Jordan noticed that many parents coming to the pediatric emergency room stated not owning a thermometer to check their child’s temperature. The student immediately sprang into action. Her goal: Collect 250 thermometers. The end result: a total of 1,000 thermometers for the UMMC Pediatric Emergency Department.

“As Maranda and Olivia were preparing to make the hand-off, a pediatric patient was admitted whose caregiver did not have a thermometer. Because of your donations and hard work, they were able to leave with one of the new thermometers,” said Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing.

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Kim Hoover, dean, School of Nursing; Jennifer Stephen, UMMC clinical director; Maranda Jordan; Dr. LaDonna Northington, director, Traditional BSN program; Mike Boyanton, RN and clinical preceptor; Skye Stoker, pediatric emergency department nurse manager; Kristin Dowdy, RN; and Olivia Oberschmidt, who designed the “Keep Kids Kool” t-shirt to raise funds for additional thermometer purchases.

Habitat Build Utilizes Student Manpower

Across Metro-Jackson, employees of competing institutions and students representing varying trades put aside their differences to unite for a common cause: to eliminate poverty and homelessness, one house at a time. On March 28, seven School of Nursing students, Morgan Malone, Steven Hodnett, Shelby Wilkinson, Erin Jones, Kelsey Gallagher, Caitlin Fleming and Michael Williams, did just that when they helped construct an area woman’s new home.

Real Winner of Campus-Wide Competition is School-Based Clinics

In the spirit of friendly competition and in the name of service, students in the School of Health Related Professions, Graduate Studies, Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy joined the School of Nursing in the campus-wide “School Cup” competition. School of Nursing students organized a supply drive for the clinics at Johnson Elementary School, Brown Elementary School and Rowan Middle School. The competition awarded points to the UMMC schools based on the number of items their students donated to the philanthropy. UMMC students collected more than \$550 in donations and 4,000 items for the Jackson public schools. Taking the win was the School of Graduate Studies, with donations equating to almost 1,500 points. The School of Nursing finished second with 1,280 points.



“Your amazing efforts for the school-based clinic donation drive have provided our school-based health centers the much-needed supplies with which to care for our special patients,” said Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing and nurse practitioner at Johnson Elementary School. “From hydrocortisone cream to paper towels, all are appreciated and will be readily used. We have already put the anti-bacterial soap to good use. Your efforts, on behalf of the students served by our school-based health centers, humble me. I am so very proud of each and every one of you.”

Students Help with Renal Screenings



In April, several junior BSN students participated in a renal evaluations and assessment program with the Mississippi Kidney Foundation. The students helped screen participants' blood pressure, weight, urine for protein, labs for cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, WBCs and RBCs.

Pictured from left to right are James Taylor; Kelsey Edwards; Ashley Griffin; Dr. Marilyn Harrington, associate professor of nursing; Rachel Boutwell; Jennifer Hill; and Katherine Hazlip.

Oxford Students Relay for Cancer Research

Fourteen days was all that it took for a group of Oxford BSN students to champion a cause, rally together and raise nearly \$2,000 for cancer research. As part of the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life, the students, led by team captains India Bush and Charlsie Murphy, not only exceeded their fundraising goal, but won the award for "best dressed" and placed No. 6 out of 47 teams for monies raised. Pictured from left to right are team members India Bush, Charlsie Murphy, Jordan Kate Jordan, Kalisha Smith, Kiyanta Taylor, Kelly Davidson and Lindsey Foley.



"I was very proud of the students, faculty and staff," said Dr. Robin Wilkerson, director of the North Mississippi campus. "The students didn't decide to form a team until late, and we only had two weeks to raise the money and get everything set up. They did such a great job. We are looking forward to next year's event."

Four-Leaf 5K Run Benefits Minority High School Students



Legend says that four-leaf clovers bring good luck to those who find them. On March 2, thanks to the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses' Four-Leaf 5K Run, high school students around the state will be the recipient of that good fortune.

The School of Nursing's MASN chapter hosted the inaugural event that more than 80 walkers and runners signed up to support. Proceeds from the event, which totaled more than \$4,000, benefitted the MASN scholarship fund and "Breakthrough to Nursing" project, which seeks to promote nursing careers among minority high school students in an effort to diversify the nursing workforce.

Pictured from left to right, top to bottom, are Katie Lee Lloyd; Josie Bidwell, assistant professor of nursing; Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor of nursing; Johnna Coccaro; Laura Polk; Anna Claire Cauthen; Meagan Ramage; Morgan Malone; Hannah Case; and Adriana Mercer.

Student Leaders Recognized for Significant Service to Community



“Service is a value deeply embedded within the profession of nursing and within the culture of the School of Nursing,” said Director of Student Affairs Tammy Dempsey. “Service is a platform for learning, for providing inter-professional experiences and for fulfilling our commitment to build nurse leaders.” At the May 10 Honors Day ceremony, seven undergraduate students were honored for significant contributions to the community. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, with Katie Herrington, Tori White, Paul Munn, Logan Barnes, Kristin Hinton, Maranda Jordan, Katie Lloyd and Dempsey.

Herrington served as captain of the School of Nursing’s American Heart Association 2012 Heart Walk team, which was the largest in school history and one of the top five largest in all of Metro-Jackson. White for two years served as captain of the school’s March of Dimes’ March for Babies team that raised more than \$4,000. Munn and Barnes served as co-captains of the school’s Habitat for Humanity project that enlisted more than 70 school volunteers and completed two homes. Hinton, Nursing Student Body president, who led the “School Cup” competition, received the NSB Student of the Year Award, spearheaded the school’s participation in the “Taste of the U” event and started the peer mentoring program. Jordan organized a thermometer drive for the Batson Children’s Hospital that resulted in 1,000 new thermometers for the Pediatric Emergency Department. Lloyd organized the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses inaugural Four-Leaf 5K Run, in which more than \$4,000 was raised to promote diversity in nursing.

ISJL, JPS Initiative Focuses on Health Promotion

As part of a joint initiative with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life and the Jackson Public Schools, School of Nursing students spent time this semester interacting with Blackburn Middle School students and implementing fun health lesson plans that the middle-schoolers then translated into blog posts for their peers to read and share with others. To read the blog, visit <http://healthexpressjackson.blogspot.com/>.

Symposium Spotlights Mississippi Health Literacy



The Mississippi Health Care Symposium on Health Literacy was held June 17 and 18 at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond, Miss. More than 125 clinicians, educators, researchers, policymakers and others convened to develop best practices for addressing the low health literacy challenge in Mississippi. Both national and regional experts discussed innovative programs, solutions for improving health communications and programs of critical importance for improving health literacy.

Resident artist, mother and author Regina Holliday from Washington, D.C., served as keynote speaker and created two paintings reflecting the Mississippi experience and efforts to affect health disparity through e-Patient empowerment. Holliday painted them on-site and then presented them to the School of Nursing and Hinds Community College, who co-sponsored the event. Pictured from left to right are Hinds Community College Nursing/Allied Health dean Dr. Elizabeth Mahaffey, Holliday, Dr. Sharon Lobert, associate dean for research, practice and evaluation, and Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing.