

In This Issue:

SON Announcements 2

- Dean's Corner
- SON Clinics Expansion

News You Can Use 3

- Alumni Greetings
- Upcoming Events

Kudos 4-6

- Student Earns Quality Award
- BSN Graduate Finishes Third
- UMMC's First Jonas Scholar
- Service Pins Received
- PhD Student Presents Poster
- DNP Student Awarded Grant

Faculty Feats 7-9

- Bidwell Receives Funding
- Grants Total More Than \$2M
- SON Alumnus of the Year
- ANCC Content Expert Panel
- Cookbooks for Sale
- SON Becomes CHAs
- MNA Round Table Awards

Oxford Update 10

Spotlight on Service 11

Semester in Review 12

- Flu Season Drive for JPS
- Giving Back at Kamp Kandu

Williams honored with endowed scholarship

Endowed scholarships are established to encourage and empower future leaders to seek the funds necessary to further their education and continue the legacy of excellence started by the leader in whose name it was founded. Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC) honored the esteemed career of **Dr. Ellen Williams** with one such endowed scholarship in her name.



Dr. Ellen Williams, center, holds plaque along with NWCC President Dr. Gary Lee Spears. Watching are from left, Roberta Mayfield; Dr. Denise Bynum, director of the Division of Nursing at NWCC; Lisa Vincent, Retired NWCC nursing instructor; Tom Pittman, executive director of the Northwest Mississippi Community Foundation; SON Dean Kim Hoover; the recipient's mother Ethel Peters; Dr. Marcia Rachel, the associate dean for academic affairs in the UMMC SON; and the recipient's husband, Charlie Williams.

The endowment was made possible by a charitable event, "Shoot for the Heart," that was established during her six years as dean of the Division of Nursing. Since its inception, the event has raised just shy of \$200,000 for the nursing program at NWCC and is a sporting clays event that draws participants from all over the United States to Tunica.

Money from the endowment will be used for future nurse leaders who wish to further their education beyond the associate degree in nursing.

...continued on page 8

Annual luncheon pairs students with mentors

The School of Nursing hosted its annual Mentorship "Meet Your Match" Luncheon this past summer at the Norman C. Nelson Student Union, where 15 incoming Traditional BSN students met their mentors and other guest speakers. Dr. Tonya Moore, UMMC chief learning officer, served as the keynote speaker. She provided the incoming students with words of encouragement to "be the CEO

of yourself" by always putting their "best foot forward." More also stressed the importance of building relationships now in order to equip oneself for the future.

Moore was also the recipient of this year's Mentor of the Year Award after having received nominations from two of her mentees from the previous year.

...continued on page 12

Dean's Corner - In Memory of Dr. Sharon B. Wyatt

This holiday season is a wonderful time to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, alumni, staff and faculty. We also celebrate our community and service partners without whom we could not achieve our mission of developing nurse leaders and improving the health of Mississippians.

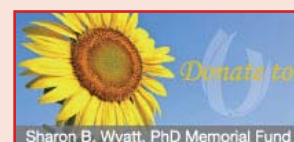
None was more committed to developing models of improving health than Dr. Sharon B. Wyatt, the Harriet G. Williamson Professor of Nursing and professor of medicine. Dr. Wyatt died Nov. 5. On faculty for more than 20 years, she was a master practitioner, researcher and educator who will be missed by her colleagues and former students.

The Sharon B. Wyatt Memorial Fund has been established in her honor. Donations to the fund will be used to support national and international travel to conferences for PhD in Nursing students.

For more information or to make a donation to the fund, visit the School of Nursing website at <http://umc.edu/son/> and click the donation box to the right.



Dr. Sharon B. Wyatt



SON clinics expand into more schools, hire staff to meet growth

A surge of new school-based clinics brought more people into the School of Nursing's outreach program to help improve health-care services throughout the state.

In downtown Jackson, the Lanier High Teen Wellness Clinic opened its doors last month and welcomed Rosalind Basham, patient care technician, and CeNedra Lee, nurse practitioner, to the SON family. They joined Priscilla Smith, an Americorps community health worker at Lanier High School.

The school clinics in the Delta have seen the most growth with the addition of South Delta High School and six new staff members. Bebe Case, nurse practitioner, and Ramona Brock, licensed practical nurse, helped open

the doors at the high school. Gwen Dew, RN, and Dabne Hedrick, patient services coordinator, joined the team at South Delta Middle School. Michelle Tharp, RN, joined the South Delta Elementary School Clinic. Lastly, Akia Davis is working with the South Delta School District as the research and outreach specialist.

Christine Roberts came on board as a nurse practitioner at the existing Brown Elementary and Rowan Middle School Health Clinic. Most recently, Lydia Fisher joined the UNACARE Family Health Clinic as the manager for business and clinic operations. SON Faculty welcome all into the School of Nursing practice clinics and thank all for what you do to improve health within our state.

Editor's Notes

Vital Signs, a School of Nursing internal publication, is published three times per year. Content includes alumni, faculty, staff and student achievements, as well as photos from the semester. Please direct comments, suggestions or questions to nsrecruiter@umc.edu.

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

Dean
Dr. Kim Hoover
Editor/Writer
Josh Hardy
Co-Editor/Writer and Designer
Amy Robertson

Connect with us:



/UMMCSchoolofNursing

Read the latest SON news:



www.umc.edu/son/news/

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

Alumni Greetings

On behalf of the School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center alumni chapter, I would like to thank each of you for your involvement and support of our school. Our students and alumni exemplify the school's mission to develop nurse leaders and improve health within and beyond the state of Mississippi. I am honored to be a part of this amazing work! We are surrounded by a dynamic, eager and innovative group of people who constantly display loyalty to the profession of nursing and take pride in contributing to our success.



*Dr. Amber Arnold,
Nursing Alumni
President*

In October, we concluded an incredible week at the Mississippi Nurses Association Convention in Biloxi, and as always, the School of Nursing and Alumni Association sponsored a fabulous reception at the Redding House. The reception has earned a reputation as a "can't miss" event, and it was a great opportunity to interact with alumni and friends. Dean Kim Hoover and April Mann Overstreet, UMMC director of alumni affairs, both touched on their visions for the future of the School of Nursing and our Alumni Association. And what an exciting time it is to be in this profession!

We look forward to our Nursing Alumni Annual Meeting and Symposium on April 7, 2016, and I want to invite you to join us. Last year, we were fortunate to have informative speakers such as Dr. Fleetwood Loustalot from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Dr. Mary Currier, Mississippi State health officer, Kevin Cook, CEO of University Hospitals and Health System, and Jonathan Wilson, chief administrative officer at UMMC. The day also included time for School of Nursing students and faculty to discuss their nursing research with attendees. The upcoming event will be a special one as we celebrate some of our previous classes!

I am also happy to announce our president-elect for the next two years, Heather Pierce. Heather works in Batson Children's Hospital as an administrative house supervisor and comes to us with a depth of knowledge and remarkable experience. Please feel free to call or email me at any time. I look forward to working alongside each of you.

Sincerely,

Amber Arnold DNP, RN
Nursing Alumni President, 2015-17
Class of 1999 (BSN), Class of 2009 (MSN), Class of 2013 (DNP)
(601) 815-9256 • aarnold@umc.edu

Upcoming Events

**MSN and Post-MSN
Orientation**
Wednesday, Jan. 6

**Accelerated Jackson BSN
and RN-BSN Orientation**
Wed.-Thurs., Jan. 6-7

Spring Semester Begins
Monday, Jan. 11

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Birthday Holiday**
Monday, Jan. 18

Ignite Career Day
Wednesday, Feb. 3

**Student Financial
Wellness Seminar**
Wednesday, Feb. 3

Spring Break Begins
Saturday, March 5

Classes Resume
Monday, March 14

Oglevee Day
Thursday, April 7

Honors Day
Thursday, May 5

Classes End
Saturday, May 14

**Oxford Accelerated BSN,
Traditional BSN, RN-BSN,
RN-MSN, MSN, Post-MSN,
DNP Orientation**
Tues.-Thu., May 17-19

Pinning
Thursday, May 26

Commencement
Friday, May 27

**UMMC School of Nursing Alumni Annual Meeting
Oglevee Papers Day, Inez Driskell Lecture
and Sigma Theta Tau Symposium**

**Thursday, April 7, 2016
Norman C. Nelson Student Union**

DNP student receives National Quality Award from NPSF



Cissy Lee

DNP student and UMMC nurse manager **Cissy (Bailey) Lee** received the National Quality Forum Management Award from the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF) for her implementation of a falls prevention program she initiated on her nursing unit. The NPSF advances patient and health-care workforce safety by disseminating strategies to prevent harm. One award recipient who is making extraordinary efforts towards this goal is chosen each year. Lee's program stemmed from her DNP capstone project, "An Interactive Evaluation of a Falls Prevention Program in an Academic Health Science Center."

To determine a preventative solution, Lee's research focused on gathering information about when patients fall the most and why. Her data indicated that a high percentage of patient falls happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., with a peak time of 4 a.m., when patients' sleep times may be interrupted for routine care. Patients wake up groggy and think they can get up without assistance, which can result in a fall. Lee worked with her 5 North staff to increase the rounding to patient rooms and also reassigned one person from that shift who will be dedicated to immediately responding to patients' calls for assistance. This immediate response time helps prevent a patient from falling as a result of trying to get up without assistance. Lee noticed results right away after implementing this program. She found that patients are now more likely to wait for the rounder than try to get up independently, knowing how frequently the rounders visit and how quickly they respond.

When asked what this award means to her, Lee said, "It was a great honor to be considered for the National Quality Forum Management Award. When I was notified that this project had been chosen, I was elated. It has meant a great deal to me knowing that the initiative has made such a positive impact on my nursing unit. I am very proud of the award and must give the credit for the success of the program to the 5 North Team."

BSN graduate wins third place in Medical Center writing contest



Eliza Inman, center, class of 2015 Traditional BSN graduate, smiles at the recognition ceremony for the winners along with Dr. Rick Boyte, left, professor of pediatrics and division chief of pediatric palliative medicine at Batson Children's Hospital, and Dr. Ralph Didlake, right, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief academic officer.

Traditional BSN graduate **Eliza Inman** was awarded third place in the second annual "Writes of Spring" essay contest this previous semester. This campus-wide writing contest, hosted by the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, provides students with an outlet to share experiences that have been memorable or valuable to them during their education at UMMC. Inman chose to write about her experiences as a student ambassador for the School of Nursing. Student ambassadors participate in a variety of SON and community-service activities that challenge students to perform to their potential and encourage personal and professional growth. Inman wants future UMMC students to know that they can gain much more from their education by becoming involved in the numerous extracurricular activities available to them. These experiences gave her the opportunity to develop her skills as a leader, while also contributing back to the school and her fellow Mississippi residents.

Inman states in her essay, "For my future nursing career, I realize the importance of primary interventions established in schools and clinics. Having these services helps to prevent unwarranted hospitalizations and keeps societies, as a whole, healthier. As my role of a professional nurse develops, I would like to contribute to this service more by practicing in underserved clinics in the state of Mississippi."

PhD student chosen as first Jonas Scholar for UMMC



Karen Arrant

This spring, PhD student **Karen Arrant** was chosen as the first Jonas Scholar from UMMC. The Jonas Nurse Scholar Program supports doctoral nursing students pursuing both PhD and DNP degrees. The goal of the program is to increase the number of doctorally-prepared faculty available to teach in nursing schools nationwide, as well as the number of advanced practice nurses providing direct patient care. The program provides financial assistance, leadership development and networking support to expand the pipeline of future nurse faculty and advanced practice nurses.

A leadership project is a large portion of the requirements for receiving this award. Arrant, a resident of Louisiana, was granted permission to complete her project in her home state. The Louisiana Action Coalition (LAC) was initiated in 2012 with the goal to transform health care throughout the state by addressing each of the pillars of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report. These pillars include advancing education transformation, leveraging nursing leadership, removing barriers to practice and care, fostering interprofessional collaboration, promoting diversity in nursing and bolstering workforce data.

This was an enormous task, so the LAC divided the state into eight regions and presented forums in five of the regions in 2013-14. The purpose of the forums was to try to get a Regional Action Coalition (RAC) started in each region and bring interested parties on board to work towards an RAC.

Arrant lives in Region 8, which was not included in the forums. She therefore chose to take this on as her leadership project. She initiated conversations with the LAC leaders, which led to many contacts in Region 8 searching for people interested in improving the health of their community. The idea was to get nurses and community leaders in a room together, discuss the IOM report and their community needs, choose one or more of the pillars, and gather data from the community and health-care facilities that demonstrate how the RAC is working to meet the chosen pillar. Her RAC forum was in April and was a huge success. Examples of the work include an interprofessional collaboration project at the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM), working with the local chapter of the Louisiana State Nurse Association in removing barriers to practice for Region 8 nurse practitioners on the legislative level in Baton Rouge, and actively recruiting more diverse students in the ULM BSN and Delta Community College ADN Programs.

"My role began by starting the conversation, bringing in interested parties, hosting the RAC forum," said Arrant. "Now my role has evolved into funneling information about our programs, actions and numbers to the LAC so they can keep track of how Louisiana is working to meet the IOM report recommendations. I have grown tremendously as a nurse leader, I have made contacts throughout my state that will benefit my region, and I have learned how to connect people with similar interests and goals to the benefit of my RAC. None of this would have happened without the Jonas Nurse Scholar Program."

Arrant credits her mentor, Dr. Janet Harris, for guiding her through the leadership analysis and providing feedback for her along the way.

Faculty and staff receive Medical Center service pins

Several SON faculty and staff received service pins this quarter. Among those recognized for five years of service were Dr. Jill White, Sherrikee Causey, Tammy Dempsey and Amy Robertson. Dr. Carl Mangum received his 15-year pin along with Angela Stokes and Michael Vaughan. Dr. Renée Williams and Dr. Karen Winters received their 20-year pins. Recognized for serving for 25 years each were Dr. Audwin Fletcher, Dr. Sharon Lobert, Dr. Tina Martin and Mary Graichen. Congratulations to everyone for their service to the School of Nursing and to the Medical Center!

PhD student presents poster at international conference



Katherine Rigdon

In May, nursing scholars from around the world attended the annual International Association of Human Caring (IAHC) Conference in New Orleans. The IAHC promotes the identification of major philosophical, epistemological and professional dimensions of care and caring in nursing. The core philosophy of the association is based on the belief that caring is the essence and the unique, unifying focus of nursing. The IAHC annual conference provides an international, scholarly forum for individuals to share ideas, research and theories of care and caring within the profession of nursing.

Katherine Rigdon, a PhD in Nursing student, submitted an abstract for a poster presentation for the IAHC conference. Instead of an acceptance letter for the poster presentation, she received an invitation from the conference planning committee requesting that she speak at the conference and present her research on "Compassion: Relationship Between Self-Care and Caring for Others." Dr. Savina Schoenhofer, a caring theorist, provided mentorship for the abstract submission. "It was an honor to have my research acknowledged by such an esteemed, prestigious organization," Rigdon said. "The opportunity to present my research to an international audience of caring science scholars and theorists was an impactful experience for me personally and professionally."

Rigdon emphasizes that even though research is an individual endeavor, her progress thus far would not have been possible without the patience, guidance and wisdom of her dissertation advisor, Dr. Karen Winters. According to Rigdon, she chose well when she decided to pursue her dream of a PhD in Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "All of the PhD faculty at UMMC are dedicated to academic excellence and the professional development of their students."

DNP student awarded grant to attend national ELNEC meeting



Jacqueline Carrillo

This past June, DNP student **Jacqueline Carrillo** attended a national meeting for End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) training in St. Louis. She was awarded a grant to attend with funds supporting the consortium from City of Hope, the National Cancer Institute and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Along with letters of recommendation from Dr. Janet Harris, associate dean for practice and community engagement, and Dr. Marcia Rachel, associate dean for academic affairs, Carrillo had to provide evidence of clinical practice and leadership. As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, Carrillo co-developed the pediatric pain and palliative care program at Batson Children's Hospital in 2009 alongside Dr. Rick Boyte. Then in 2013, she started the adult palliative care program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's University Hospital.

In 2000, Carrillo attended the first ELNEC program held in Washington, D.C. for the general nursing school educators train-the-trainer program. She continued to attend when she was a nursing instructor at Hinds Community College through 2007 and again went to the pediatric train-the-trainer program when she was working in the pediatric palliative care program.

The main focus of the ELNEC program is to educate nurses at various levels on palliative care and end-of-life care by providing various presentations relevant to APRN, DNP, nursing and pediatric provider populations. The consortium was initially created by funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). According to the ELNEC website, it is estimated that "ELNEC trainers have returned to their institutions and communities and have trained over 600,000 nurses and other health-care providers."

Bidwell receives funding for special project aimed at nutrition



Dr. Josie Bidwell

Assistant Professor **Dr. Josie Bidwell** received funding for a special project, “Cook Right, Live Well,” aimed at educating Mississippi residents not only on the importance of good nutrition, but also instructing them on healthy food choices and cooking techniques. Bidwell believes that inexpensive, highly processed food that is high in salt, sugar and “bad” fat is widely available and forms the core of the diets of many Mississippians, especially those with limited income. At the same time, the knowledge and skills needed to buy and cook healthy (non-processed) foods have been lost through successive generations, which is creating a major challenge to healthy eating.

Bidwell wants to create a nutrition-education and cooking-instruction program using several community teaching kitchens and linking to farmers’ markets and community gardens in central Mississippi. The program will target low-income families attending a midtown urban family practice clinic. Patients with recently diagnosed type 2 diabetes and/or hypertension (or midtown residents identified by screening at local health fairs) will be selected for participation. The program will comprise a series of 30 cooking instruction sessions (60 hours) during two years, taught by local registered dietitians and nutritionists.

Participants will also be taken to multiple sites where healthy foods can be purchased and given a full tour to have hands-on experience with reading labels, picking out produce and shopping on a budget. During the program they will be guided and instructed in shopping at these locations for fresh, affordable and culturally appropriate foods.

The goal of this project is to demonstrate that a program of education, instruction and practice in selecting and cooking inexpensive healthy (non-processed) food is feasible and acceptable and can lead to changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to healthy eating.

Bidwell has received funding for the project from the Bower Foundation—an organization that directs funds to support systemic improvements in the state’s health and education infrastructures. If the project is successful, she hopes to form strategic partnerships between UMMC and local business leaders in the food and restaurant industry to add a physical food hub to the downtown Jackson community incorporating lessons learned from this initiative.

Faculty members receive grant funding totaling more than \$2 million



Dr. Renée Williams

Dr. Renée Williams, professor of nursing, was awarded a \$100,000 grant by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation to support minority student scholarships, recruitment and retention.

The grant’s goal is to help strengthen inclusiveness to meet the needs of a diverse population. Concentration on recruitment is geared to a target audience of urban and rural schools within the city of Jackson and the greater Jackson area with a goal of increasing the current 50-percent retention rate by an additional 15-percent during the next three years.



Dr. Robin Christian

Dr. Robin Christian, associate professor of nursing, and **Dr. Janet Harris**, associate dean for practice and community engagement, were awarded a \$2.1 million grant from HRSA for their project, “Integrated Behavioral Health Program.”

This project will bring Telehealth and mental-health services to the SON’s faculty-run clinics and will integrate the educational development for these services within the SON curricula. These expanded services will offer unique opportunities for faculty and students while improving access to care for local communities.

Fletcher touted as SON Alumnus of the Year at annual alumni meeting



Dr. Audwin Fletcher receives the Alumnus of the Year Award from former nursing alumni chapter president Michelle Burns.

After more than 25 years of service to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he has intertwined his talents with the School of Nursing both as a student, faculty and family nurse practitioner in the school's nurse-managed UNACARE Family Health Clinic, **Dr. Audwin Fletcher** received the 2015 Alumnus of the Year Award at the alumni meeting earlier in the year.

Along with his clinical duties, Fletcher teaches in the Master of Science in Nursing program and serves as director of the Acute Care Adult-Gerontology and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks. Before that, he served as the school's director of multicultural affairs for more than three years.

Fletcher is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and is also a member of the Norman C. Nelson Order at UMMC. His achievements span many years and include various leadership and service awards. He has served on several boards of directors, including the National Black Nurses Association and the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurses Association. He is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Association of Black Nursing Faculty, the Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi and the Mississippi Nurses Association, to name a few.

Williams Endowed Scholarship (cont.)

"With the Dr. Ellen Williams Endowed Scholarship at NWCC, I hope that the selected student(s) will be better able to continue their nursing education through the early-entry and/or RN-MSN program," said Williams. "For as long as NWCC exists and has the nursing program, the Dr. Ellen Williams [endowed] scholarship will be intact. I am thrilled beyond words to [be] recognized in such a way by my colleagues in nursing education at NWCC. There is no greater honor for me as an educator in nursing."

A partnership between NWCC and the UMMC School of Nursing was established while Williams served as dean at NWCC and still continues with the early-entry point into the RN-MSN program at UMMC. The entry option also partners with Hinds Community College and provides eligible first-year associate-degree nursing students with an opportunity to reserve a spot in the RN-MSN program during their first year of ADN coursework, rather than after graduation.

The endowed scholarship was created when NWCC nursing faculty voted to use some of the proceeds from the "Shoot for the Heart" event to establish an endowment that would recognize Williams' efforts and initiatives during her tenure at NWCC.

Luther appointed to ANCC content expert panel

Dr. Cindy Luther, director of adult-gerontology primary care and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner tracks, was appointed to the American Nurses Credentialing Center Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Content Expert Panel earlier this year. The appointment is the first time that Luther has met on an expert panel for AGPCNP. She has attended three meetings this year at the American Nurses Association's headquarters in Silver Springs, Maryland. Content experts are called to serve as volunteers to assist ANCC staff with the development of ANCC examinations and test content development.



Cookbooks for Sale - \$12!

The SON cookbook ***Taste This, Too*** is now on sale. It features more than 200 recipes submitted by faculty, staff, students and alumni and can be purchased in A304 or A106 for \$12 each. These make great presents for the holiday season! Cash or checks only. For more information, email mflowerday@umc.edu or adrobertson@umc.edu.

School of Nursing students become Community Health Advocates

UMMC is committed to addressing the state's severe health problems through education, care and research. UMMC leadership believes that establishing partnerships with those in the community who share the same concern is essential to improving Mississippi's poor health ranking compared to other states. There is agreement that the long-term solution for Mississippi's health crisis is improved health literacy, leading to healthy choices and lifestyle changes.

With this goal in mind, UMMC has established a program called Community Health Advocates (CHA) to train faith-based and community groups as health screeners in a health-advocacy program. The training includes instruction in the detection of obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Participants are taught how to locate resources for care of these problems and receive dietary information and weight control management training.

The program is staffed using volunteer trainers from UMMC and local health professionals. SON Assistant Professor **Dr. Josie Bidwell** is a member of the interprofessional core leadership team that is leading the charge for this initiative. One of her priorities was to implement this program in SON curriculum and have all currently enrolled Traditional BSN students trained as CHAs who can be of service to the community by spreading the message of healthier lifestyle choices. Students have had the opportunity to volunteer at more than a dozen CHA events serving the local community this fall semester.

Some faculty members on the Oxford and Jackson campuses have been trained in the program as well. Bidwell notes that since January, the core leadership team has certified more than 500 health-profession students on campus. She is looking forward to seeing the impact these CHAs will have on the surrounding community and the state of Mississippi as a whole.

Faculty members receive awards for their round tables at MNA



Instructors Katie Hall, left, and Kristi Wilson show off their winning ribbons after the round-table presentations at the 2015 MNA Convention.

Out of the nine round-table presentations delivered at the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) Convention on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in October, two School of Nursing instructors, **Kristi Wilson** and **Katie Hall**, took home honors for their presentations. The purpose of the presentations as a whole was to show how nursing quality improvement (QI) projects and nursing research benefit the nursing practice and community.

Wilson presented her second-place, interactive-classroom abstract on the "Evaluation of the self-reported increase in empathy related to functional and sensory impairments among nursing students during a nursing simulation, as indicated by a decrease in a scoring survey." Earlier in the year, she presented the same abstract at the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) Conference.

Hall earned third-place honors for her concept analysis of health-related quality of life that she wrote during her PhD theory construction and testing course. According to the analysis, "Quality of life (QOL) is an abstract term that can be used as a phrase to represent a person's satisfaction, happiness or well-being with their life." She wanted to then take the QOL concept and apply it to the concept of health-related quality of life among pediatric patients.

Fall semester events from the Oxford campus



On Sept. 17, Accelerated BSN and MSN students participated in the University of Mississippi Pre-Professions Health Fair as a service opportunity. The event took place at the University of Mississippi Student Union. Students performed blood pressure and body mass indexes (BMIs).



Accelerated BSN and MSN students are pictured here with Dr. Robin Wilkerson, right, professor of nursing, director of north Mississippi campus and RN-MSN program director, at the University of Mississippi Pre-Professions Health Fair.



During the flu drive Sept. 21-23, Accelerated BSN students worked alongside School of Pharmacy students during an interprofessional CHA event, providing flu vaccinations on the Oxford campus.



Accelerated BSN students join School of Pharmacy students at the IPE flu vaccinations conducted Sept. 21.



Oxford Accelerated BSN student Rachael Weathersby gives a flu shot to former Ole Miss pitcher Scott Weathersby, who also happens to be her husband.



Oxford Accelerated BSN students participate in a "wrapping party," packing more than 30 Operation Christmas Child boxes to be delivered to children this holiday season. Student Alison Jimenez coordinated this service opportunity. Special thanks to the little helpers that lent a hand!

Reflections of service from our community, our friends and our students

SON Service

Faculty, staff and students have logged in more than 8,500 hours valued at over \$203,200 in the eight months since our last issue.



"We know that your time is valuable and do so appreciate all the time you spent preparing and presenting these classes to our residents. We strive to give them the tools to become self-sufficient. The HIV 101 classes contribute to this goal. I have never heard a single negative comment about any of the UMMC SON students. Their positive attitudes will have far-reaching effects for years to come for our residents, our community and our state."
~ Philip Grisham, Healthcare Education Coordinator for HIV 101 at Grace House, Inc.



To see what the School of Nursing is doing in the community, visit <https://givegab.com/universities/university-of-mississippi-medical-center-school-of-nursing>.



CAMP RAINBOW DIABETES WALK
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MERCY
UMMC HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER DELTA
SUSAN G. KOMAN RACE FOR A CURE CAMP
ALZHEIMER'S WALK GRACE HOUSE KANDU
GRANT'S FERRY RELAY FOR LIFE
HEALTH FAIR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
MRA SCIENCE FAIR FITNESS FEST MARCH OF DIMES
CAMP BLUEBIRD BLOOD DRIVES MAKE A WISH
JOHNSON ELEMENTARY NIGHT OUT HEART
20,090 hours valued at
\$463,465
1 CAMPUS 1 COMMUNITY IHL HEALTH FAIR
ROSA SCOTT HEALTH FAIR BROWN ELEMENTARY
MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER WALK SIDS WALK
DISCOVER NURSING DAY
ELIZA PILLIARS HEALTH FAIR
MS MASN 4 LEAF K
WALK

"My work at the Caring Hands Clinic has not only allowed me to give my nursing skills and knowledge to those in need, but it has given me the living experience of our Fundamental of Nursing as a Discipline, Caring. This free clinic provides these patients with continuity of care. A valuable medical service that they couldn't receive if it weren't for the many devoted volunteers. It is a wonderful experience to work with these medical professionals and see their desire to show up each month and take care of those that need their help."

~ From MSN recent graduate, Cissy McCarty, who said this of her service with Caring Hands Clinic



Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi

"Because of you, we have 38 families empowered and informed on how to care for their child or teen with diabetes! Because of you, we have 38 children and teens with diabetes who feel like kids again, who have friends who know what it's like to live with diabetes 24/7 - to have that support when they need it most! Thank you so much for volunteering at Spring Camp! You made a world of difference in the lives of these kids, their parents, siblings and grandparents. We hope that we can count on you to volunteer again and help these families learn that life with diabetes is truly a life without limits!"

With deepest gratitude from all of us at the DFM."
~ Irena McClain, MPH, associate director, Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Submitted by Tammy Dempsey, former director of student affairs and service learning:

The commitment of the students, faculty and administration of the School of Nursing to community engagement and service learning is changing our world, our state and our community, and it is undoubtedly changing each of us in the process. The goal of service learning is to improve the health and lives of those in our community while also contributing, to the development of nurse leaders who advocate for justice and equity for the improvement of health for our states citizens; who understand and celebrate diversity; who practice skills with excellence and compassion; and who are committed to civic engagement that results in systems change.

This year, the School of Nursing was recognized for the tremendous contribution it has made to our state, when it was selected as recipient of the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence by a health-care education program. Since implementing the GiveGab platform for promoting and tracking service learning in February 2013, the SON has logged more than 20,000 hours of service by faculty, staff and students, at a value of more than \$460K. As impressive as those numbers are, even more impressive is the impact this service is having on our community.

The School of Nursing is leading the way on service learning and community engagement. I look forward to watching the numbers climb, as well as the lives impacted, as service learning continues to grow at UMMC. These amazing accomplishments are only possible through the support of the students, faculty and administration of the School of Nursing. I am so very grateful to have been (and to continue to be) a part of this important work.

Winter 2015-16

Semester in Review

Pair Students with mentors (cont.)



Dr. Marilyn Harrington, left, poses with more than 30 of the students and mentors during this year's annual mentorship luncheon, along with keynote speaker Dr. Tonya Moore, right.

Currently, Moore serves as a mentor for three students — two Traditional BSN students and one Accelerated BSN student.

The SON mentorship program was initiated in 2010 by **Dr. Marilyn Harrington**, who serves as director of diversity and inclusion. Harrington touts benefits realized by the program include reduced overall attrition rates of minority students; improved overall confidence in reaching the goal of becoming a successful nursing professional; access to a support system during critical stages of academic and career development; a clearer understanding and enhancement of academic and career plans; and an improved self-esteem and image.

Campus-wide drive benefits Jackson Public School District

Under the leadership of **Dr. Janet Harris**, associate dean for community engagement and practice, School of Nursing student leaders organized a competitive drive for cold and flu supplies for Partners in Education (PIE) with the Jackson Public School District. Five schools at UMMC— the School of Nursing, the School of Medicine, the School of Health Related Professions, the School of Dentistry and the School of Pharmacy—participated in the drive. More than 345 items consisting of facial tissue and hand sanitizer were collected and delivered to PIE.

Thanks goes to all School of Nursing faculty, staff and students who donated items, and to every other member of UMMC's schools who donated. The carload of supplies was so timely needed by the PIE program.



Pictured with all the donated supplies, are Thea Faulkner, director of partners in education for the Jackson Public School District, and Tammy Dempsey, director of community engagement and service learning at UMMC.

Giving back at Kamp Kandu to give kids the 'Kandu' attitude



More than 20 Traditional BSN and RN-MSN students took time out to give back once again at Kamp Kandu, the camp where kids with diabetes 'Kandu' anything. The free camp for children with diabetes and their family members is sponsored by the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi and takes place at Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence. Parents and children alike benefited from diabetes management educational materials and camp activities, such as karate lessons, painting pottery, relay races and more. Pictured from left are Traditional BSN seniors Kelsey Case, Sarah Tolan and Lauren Chambers.