

VITAL SIGNS

Winter 2017-18

Newsletter of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing

Volume 4: Issue 3

In This Issue:

SON Announcements 2

- Dean's corner
- Service pins awarded

News You Can Use 3-6

- Alumni greetings
- Delta children cont.
- D.C. deployment
- Collaborative care
- Global Summit
- and more

Kudos 7-12

- STTI conference
- PhD student presents
- Million dollar impact
- Leadership conference
- HEADWAE honors
- Quality Matters certification
- 1st nursing ASB president
- and more ...

Clinic Happenings 13

Semesters in Review 14

Oxford Update 15

Spotlight on SA 16

SON delivers care to Delta children most in need

Courtesy of: Public Affairs

If you're a kid, sticking your tongue out at a grownup or pushing them away might not be healthy moves.

But it's OK when you're doing the bidding of nurses from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. That's what they asked 10 children to do – plus walking like a duck and showing off their muscles – during a SON health screening this summer at Madison Shannon Palmer High School in the tiny Quitman County town of Marks.

"Squeeze my fingers! Oooh, that's too much!" Josie Bidwell, a nurse practitioner and associate professor of nursing, told 10-year-old Jamarious Gilliam of Jonestown, who squealed with delight.



Dr. Josie Bidwell, director of the UNACARE Family Health Clinic and the UNACARE Mobile Clinic, assesses a child and mother during the day's health screening.

"Kick me away. Now pull me back!"

A delegation of University of Mississippi Medical School physicians and nurses traveled to the Mississippi Delta as part of a child hunger and poverty tour sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and its leader, child health and civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman.



Civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, left, visits with Dr. Lessa Phillips, chief medical officer of United Healthcare Community Plan Mississippi, and Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the SON, during the poverty tour.

They supported what the SON does at its Mercy Delta Express school-based clinics in Sharkey County and at frequent health fairs throughout the state: Give primary health and wellness care to children and adults who may have little to no access to a doctor or other provider.

... continued on page 4



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

Dean's corner



*Dr. Kim Hoover,
professor and dean*

Across the country, schools of nursing and other health profession schools have been allocating resources to send students and faculty on foreign mission trips. While recognizing the value in overseas service, our SON remains committed to serving the people of Mississippi who so desperately need it. Moving forward, the SON will continue to serve the people of our state by thinking globally and acting locally.

The SON recently celebrated our "million dollar mark" in service contributions. This issue celebrates the countless hours spent in service to others. Recognizing that service learning leads to servant leadership, it is with pride and gratitude that I acknowledge the dedication and efforts of students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends who had a role in this work.

Kudos to Mary Abraham, a 1968 SON graduate! Her literary debut, "Where the Creek Runs," was published this year. According to the publisher's website, Mary's years in nursing were spent at UMMC in Jackson and Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, where she currently resides. If you attended the MNA convention this year, you may have noticed a copy on the silent auction table. Her novel about a young woman in the deep south who faces challenges after defying her father's expectations has received positive reviews from critics and readers. If you are interested in learning more, follow her on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/MaryShepardAbraham/>.



Welcome to the SON!

The Jackson campus has grown its ranks with four faculty and two staff members since the last issue. Dr. Johnnie Sue Wijewardane was welcomed as the associate dean for academic affairs. Devinna Bahadur and Chelsea Senitko were added as full-time clinical instructors. Melissa Klamm joined the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center faculty. Lastly, Rhonda Donald was hired as administrative assistant for the undergraduate programs, and Copucine White came from the School of Dentistry to serve as administrative assistant for the Office of Student Affairs and Service Learning.

Service pins awarded

As the fall weather has come, 10 faculty and staff have received their service pins since the last issue for a combined 120 years of service. Dr. LaDonna Northington leads the pack with 40 years of service. Dr. Marilyn Harrington was recognized for 15 years. Jennifer Hargett, Deborah Renfro, Tara Rushing and Treaise Williams were awarded 10-year pins. Dr. Betsy Mann, Debresha Blaylock, Jeanne Calcote, Melissa Klamm and Andre Thompson were all recognized for five years of service. Thank you for your years of service to UMMC and the SON!

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 lifelong learning; and highly qualified, expert faculty."

Alumni greetings

On behalf of the University of Mississippi School of Nursing alumni chapter, I would like to thank each of you for your active involvement and support of our school. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as alumni board president for 2017-2019 and continue to be a part of the great work that takes place in our school and community. I am a 2002 graduate of the BSN program and have been employed at UMMC ever since. I currently work in the Office of Nursing Quality as the manager for nurse development and professional practice. I also want to extend my gratitude to Dr. Amber Arnold, who has faithfully served as board president the past two years. Amber, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the SON. It has been my pleasure to work alongside you.



*Heather Pierce,
Nursing Alumni
President*

I would like to welcome Dr. Tonya Moore, who was recently elected president-elect of the nursing alumni chapter. Moore serves as administrator of community health services at UMMC. She is responsible for advancing the clinical mission of UMMC across the state with an emphasis on helping rural communities establish sustainable models of community health and wellness. Moore earned an ADN from Alcorn State University, a BSN and an MSN from UMMC, and a PhD in Nursing Research from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Please join me in congratulating our recent graduates from all programs and welcoming the Class of 2017 to the alumni family! You are part of an alumni group that strives to live up to the mission of the school—to develop nurse leaders and improve the health within and beyond Mississippi. Earlier this year, alumni affairs staff attended the spring and summer (Oxford program) pinning ceremonies and were excited to be a part of such an important occasion.

For our new and existing alumni, please consider getting involved. We have so many opportunities for you—whether it be serving as board members, volunteering to be standardized patients for students, serving as a guest speaker/panelist for students, or supporting our school through monetary donations. The list goes on and on, and we need you! Remember, membership in the nursing alumni chapter is free, and keeping up is easy! Visit umc.edu/son, umc.edu/alumni, and follow us on Facebook (University of Mississippi School of Nursing and UMMC Alumni Affairs).

If you need to update your contact information, please email alumni@umc.edu or call the alumni office at (601) 984-1115. I am so excited to work alongside each of you as we move forward. I would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved as a SON alumnus. Please contact me at hpierce2@umc.edu.

Sincerely,
Heather Pierce, BSN, RN-BC
Nursing Alumni President, 2017-19
Class of 2002 (BSN)
(601) 815-3860 • hpierce2@umc.edu

Upcoming events

**Jackson Accelerated BSN
Pinning Ceremony**
Wed., Dec. 6

Classes end
Sat., Dec. 16

**MSN, Post-Masters
Orientation**
Wed., Jan. 3

**Jackson Accelerated BSN
Orientation**
Wed. - Thurs., Jan. 3-4

RN-BSN Orientation
Thurs., Jan. 4

Classes begin
Mon., Jan. 8

**Martin Luther King Jr.'s
holiday**
Mon., Jan. 15

**Student Financial Wellness
Seminar**
Wed., Feb. 7

Ignite Career Fair Jackson
Thurs., Feb. 15

Spring Break holiday
Mon. - Fri., March 12-16

Honors Day
Fri., May 4

Classes end
Sat., May 12

**Traditional BSN Pinning
Ceremony**
Thurs., May 24

Commencement
Fri., May 25

SON delivers care (cont.)



photo courtesy of Public Affairs
 Ramona Brock, a licensed practical nurse with the School of Nursing's Delta school-based clinics, checks the height of children as they start screenings.

Among others making the trip were: Dr. Kim Hoover, professor of nursing and dean of the SON; Dr. Tami Brooks, associate professor of pediatrics and medical director of Mississippi Medicaid; Dr. Renate Savich, professor of pediatrics and neonatology and head of UMMC's neonatal intensive care unit; and Dr. Janet Harris, professor of nursing and the SON's associate dean for practice and community engagement.

Dr. Lisa Haynie, professor of nursing and director of the SON's Mercy Delta Express Project; Dr. Abigail Gamble, assistant professor of preventive medicine and science officer at UMMC's Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities; Tammy Fordham Bell, SON health educator for Mercy Delta Express; and Gwen Dew, a registered nurse who staffs the clinic at South Delta Middle School in Anguilla also attended the tour.

Bidwell, Haynie and others staffing the School of Nursing's new UNACARE mobile clinic kept it fun as they tested the children's strength, reflexes, muscle tone and heartbeat. They checked them for scoliosis, quickly running a hand down their backs as the children touched their toes.

The kids who stepped into the UNACARE van stepped back down wearing a plastic lei and laden with stickers, crayons, a pencil box, bubbles and healthy snacks. Many children in that area, however, have little to smile about because they face serious disease and nutrition issues.

"Students in the Mississippi Delta are facing incredible challenges that significantly impact the concentration and performance of even the best students," Haynie said. "Abject poverty, single-parent homes, health

problems, and issues of abuse, among other things, often cloud the lives of these children."

With an 11-member health care team, the School of Nursing provides medical, dental and health education services to more than 1,000 children attending South Delta Elementary, South Delta Middle School, South Delta High and Ripley Blackwell Head Start. They fill a critical gap in a region that doesn't have a pediatrician.

Nearly three in 10 Mississippi children, or almost 30 percent, were poor in 2014 for a total 212,000 children, the Children's Defense Fund says. Mississippi ranks last in the nation in child food insecurity, not knowing where your next meal will come from. The state also has the nation's worst rate of childhood obesity at almost 22 percent.

Without proper education, children are increasingly at risk for sexually transmitted infections.

"Have you talked to your son about STIs?" Bell asked the mom of a preteen. "Have you had that conversation?"

When the child's mother said no, Bell was ready. "I have some pamphlets for you. They have accurate information," she said. "Some of the things teens say are so off the wall."

Preshundra Jones of Lambert brought her three children to the health screening. Although her kids love sweets, she said, they also crave healthy foods including corn, string beans, and all kinds of fruit.

But with her full-time job as a teacher and her husband working 45 miles away in Tunica, Jones said, it's hard to fit in the 30-40 minute drive to the nearest grocery store.

"The kids have homework to do at night," she said. "It's a struggle. Sometimes, I have to run to Dollar General or Fred's to help with making up a meal before I can get to the grocery store."

As they recorded the children's height and weight, the School of Nursing team was also on the lookout for serious health and wellness problems, including proper nutrition and awareness of being improperly touched.

Associate professor deploys to D.C.



Dr. Carl Mangum, left, with U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams during his time in D.C.

When he is not teaching about emergency preparedness or psychiatric/mental health nursing to our undergraduate students, Associate Professor **Dr. Carl Mangum** serves as team commander for Delta-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), operating under the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).

According to the Public Health Emergency's website, DMATs go in "during disasters and emergencies—and even during large-scale national security events—the need for medical care can quickly overwhelm the system. NDMS DMATs may be deployed to get people the medical care they need when seconds count. Whether they are responding to a hurricane, flood or other natural disaster; protecting health and saving lives

in the wake of a terrorist attack or man-made disaster; providing support in the wake of a disease outbreak; or supporting a major event like the Presidential Inauguration, DMAT members provide care that matters."

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a command and control area in Washington, D.C. Mangum served in the Secretary's Operation Center (SOC) during Hurricanes Irma, Jose, Lee, Maria and Nate; as well as, the shooting in Las Vegas and the recovery efforts of Hurricane Harvey.

SOC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with the mission "to be the focal point for synthesis of critical public health and medical information on behalf of the U.S. Government. SOC maintains real-time situational awareness of incidents and events of public health significance, and direct the response."

"It was an honor to serve in the SOC and be a part of the nation's response to these disasters," Mangum said of his month-long deployment in D.C.

Collaborative care coming to Lanier clinic

Nursing faculty members **Dr. Kate Fouquier** and **Dr. Lishia Lee** with the addition of **Teresa Jones**, nurse educator, attended the HRSA Nurse-Led Safety Net Clinics Conference at the Advancing Integrated Mental Health Solutions (AIMS) Center on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle. The aim of the conference was to educate attendees about the IMPACT Collaborative Care Model and the principles of collaborative care in regards to patient centered team care, population based care, and measurement based treatment that provide holistic care to patients. This care model and principles will prove to be valuable with Fouquier's recent grant that will establish an Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) to support the unique behavioral needs of students at Lanier High School. Through pre-clinical and clinical education at a school-based health clinic, psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner students will collaboratively provide health care for at-risk adolescents with occupational therapy students and social work students. As a result, they will gain the knowledge and skills needed to assume leadership in the implementation of an IPCP that will impact behavioral health outcomes for teens.



Dr. Lishia Lee, Dr. Kate Fouquier and Teresa Jones collaborating during group work at the AIMS Center HRSA conference.

In Memoriam

Long-time donor of the Mattie D. Jones Clifton Memorial Scholarship Fund, Dorothy 'Dot' Taylor also passed away in January of this year. This past July, Sally Eldridge Stewart (Class of 1965) died in French Camp. She worked for UMMC for seven years before joining the VA Medical Center where she worked until retirement after 28 years.

Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town, South Africa



Dr. Michelle Palokas, Jacque Phillips and Dr. Robin Christian at the Global Evidence Summit.

Dr. Robin Christian and **Dr. Michelle Palokas**, along with DNP student **Jacque Phillips**, attended the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town, South Africa earlier this fall. The summit was a collaborative conference sponsored by the Campbell Collaboration, Cochrane, Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI), International Network Guidelines and International Society for Evidence-Based Health Care.

The conference was the first collaborative meeting of the international evidence-based practice groups. The three met colleagues from the JBI center in Kenya, Africa and will be working with the Kenya Center in the future. This collaboration will assist with systematic reviews, and members hope to work together on collaborative review. Attending the conference strengthened their relationship with other evidenced-based colleagues around the world with a goal of networking and providing mentorship.

DNP student and director presentations



Michelle Goreth

DNP student **Michelle Goreth** presented at various locales around the country this year, including the American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association 26th Annual Conference in Hollywood, Florida where she exhibited her poster “Rocky Waters: Challenges in Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Role Transition.”

In September, Goreth gave a live interview for Mississippi Public Broadcasting that discussed accidents and injury in children. The next day she was invited as a guest speaker at the 2017 Child Passenger Safety Campaign and Press Conference sponsored by the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety.

She later delivered a primary presenter talk titled

“Concussions: Collision in the Classroom” at the Mississippi Department of Education Parent Conference 2017: Building Partnerships... Working Together. In late October, she lobbied with the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma for Pediatric Trauma Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

DNP Director **Dr. Michelle Palokas** addressed the King’s International Nursing Conference with a podium presentation titled “Caring is not just for patients” in Hattiesburg. The presentation focused on the loss of caring among interprofessionals in health care and a proposed theoretical framework for interprofessional caring. The mission of the King International Group is to improve patient care and contribute to the science of nursing.



Dr. Palokas

Alumnus named associate dean



Dr. Danny Willis

1990 BSN graduate Dr. Danny Willis accepted the position of associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing earlier this year. He was previously at Boston College School of Nursing for 13 years as an associate professor and department chair. Since graduating from UMMC, Willis went on to complete his master’s and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans.

Willis is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Fellows represent less than 1 percent of nurses around the world and are considered distinguished leaders in research, education, policy, practice and management. His research focuses on healing, spirituality, human relationships and self-care processes that promote health and well-being in the aftermath of violence.

Alumnae represent Theta Beta chapter at international conference

Assistant Professor **Dr. Mary McNair**, right, represented the Theta Beta chapter at this year's Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Conference in Indianapolis. The president-elect was joined with newly elected vice president and DNP student, **Marion Patti**, during the week-long convention.



As delegates from the Theta Beta chapter, McNair and Patti were required to attend the House of Delegates (HOD) to vote on proposed bylaw changes and resolutions. The changes this year include clarifying phrases in several amendments in order to be consistent with other areas in the bylaws. Other business conducted by the HOD included support for the initiative Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery (GAPFON); health care workers responding to needs of refugees and migrants, and global mentoring and engagement. Additionally, several resolutions this year focused on special commendations to individuals for service to STTI, especially Dr. Patricia Thompson who retired as the CEO of STTI.

During the days leading up to the HOD, they attended several podium presentations and viewed hundreds of posters. As they met and visited with other nurses and nursing faculty, they discovered that many of the issues Mississippians face are shared by colleagues internationally. Afterwards, about 40 members from Region 8 joined Dr. Sonja Fuqua, Region 8 coordinator and SON alumna, for dinner, and "a good time was had by all."

The next biennial convention will be in fall of 2019 in Washington, D.C. McNair and Patti strongly urge members to consider submitting an abstract for a podium or poster presentation. "I've seen the work that my colleagues here at Theta Beta have done," said McNair. "It is on a level with what we saw at this convention!"

PhD student presents abroad



Carolann Risley

PhD student **Carolann Risley** presented at the 2nd International Congress on Contemporary Issues in Women Cancers and Gynecologic Oncology in London this past August. The titles of her presentations were "Adolescent Premalignant Cervical Disease and Delayed [Human Papilloma Virus] Vaccination," where she was the primary investigator for the research, and "Cytology abnormalities detected with glacial acetic acid (GAA)-treated thin preps for satisfactory cervical cancer screening" where she was co-investigator with Dr. Kim Geisinger, professor of pathology in the SOM. She visited the Florence Nightingale Museum and told the tour guide she was a nurse researcher. He exclaimed, "That's great! So you provide the blue print and foundation for our health care system!" She thanked him for his insight into the value of research.

Risley presented her poster "Cancer Prevention: Protecting the 'herd' from vaccine hesitancy with early HPV vaccination," which won recognition at the School of Graduate Studies Research Day. Later she went on to present again at the American Public Health Association annual meeting and expo in Atlanta.

Upcoming program application deadlines

PhD in Nursing - Dec. 15, 2017

Traditional BSN - Jan. 15, 2018

Accelerated BSN Oxford - Feb. 15, 2018

RN-BSN - Feb. 15, 2018

RN-MSN (all tracks) - Feb. 15, 2018

MSN NED & NHCA - Feb. 15, 2018

DNP Early-Entry - Feb. 15, 2018

RN-MSN Early-Entry - Feb. 15, 2018

Visit umc.edu/son for more information.

SON makes million dollar impact

The SON celebrated \$1 million worth of community service and service learning earlier this fall with an award presentation and reception. Under the leadership of the dean, the SON champions service learning as a strategic priority that has been adopted by all faculty, staff and students through a set of learning outcomes reflective of the institutional mission.

In 2013, the SON first piloted the GiveGab platform to keep track of service-learning hours, allowing the school to tell the story of its outreach throughout Mississippi. The next year, the SON was selected for the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence Award for having completed ten thousand hours of service. In four years that number has grown to over 42,000 hours.

In 2016, the school was again recognized for its service to our Jackson Public Schools, receiving the Governor's Award from Mississippi Partners in Education. Service has long been a part of the school's mission and is a core value expressed in every aspect of the SON.



Thank you to all faculty, staff, students and alumni who have contributed to this achievement that has spread compassion and generosity through your constant acts of service throughout the state and beyond. Our sincere thanks also goes to our community partners, without whom none of this would be possible: Mississippi Blood Services, JPS, Mississippi March of Dimes, the Good Samaritan Center, MNF, MNA, Families First of Mississippi and the Jackson Area United Way.

Fitch-Swiney medical and nurse student endowment



Dr. Sarah Fitch and her husband Alvin Swiney, center, at their endowment recognition earlier this year.

Courtesy of: Public Affairs

Inspired by her experience as a medical student at UMMC and what they see as the future of health care, Dr. Sarah Fitch and her late husband Alvin Swiney established the Fitch-Swiney School of Medicine and School of Nursing Scholarship Endowment.

Fitch, a pediatric radiologist in Memphis working for the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital, earned her medical degree in 1978. Swiney was a

musical instrument technician and acoustician who did undergraduate work at Louisiana State University. Both relied on scholarships and hard work to earn their degrees, making this gift all the more meaningful.

The annual scholarship will be divided evenly to fund separate full-tuition scholarships for at least one medical student and at least one nursing student each year. Fitch and Swiney wanted to promote diversity in health care and stipulated that recipients of the scholarship represent diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of the School of Nursing, agreed: "There is great potential in Mississippi for nurse practitioners to provide care in areas that lack adequate numbers of health care providers and to provide specialized care. The majority of Mississippi nurse practitioners are educated as family nurse practitioners. With their collaborating physicians, they are able to provide primary care to all ages."

Alvin Swiney passed away Nov. 13 in Germantown, Tennessee. Our sincere condolences goes to the entire Fitch-Swiney family during this difficult time.

Doctoral students complete degree requirements



Dr. Joy Akanji



Dr. Rachel Lee



Dr. Lynndi Price



Dr. Daniel Stuart

Dr. Daniel Stuart's systematic review title was "Effectiveness of Intrathecal Nicarpidine on Cerebral Vasospasm in Non-Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: A Systematic Review." His secondary reviewer was Dr. Robin Christian.

The title of Dr. Tina Ferrell's dissertation was "Nursing Professional Identity: The Experiences and Meanings for Nurses in

Senior Leadership Positions." Her chair was Dr. Marcia Rachel.

Dr. Connie Lewis' dissertation title was "Maternal Attitudes, Feeding Practices and Child Weight-For-Length Percentiles: Maternal Participation vs. Non-Participation in a Prenatal Infant Nutrition Education Session." Her chair was Dr. Sheila Keller.

The title of Dr. Jonathan Wilson's dissertation was "Civilian Disaster Health Care Response Systems: An Exploratory Study Using the e-Delphi Technique." His chair was Dr. Kim Hoover.

Congratulations to all seven doctoral students who completed their degree requirements for the DNP and PhD in Nursing programs!

Dr. Joy Akanji's systematic review was "Effectiveness of Formal Hand Hygiene Education and Feedback on Health Care Workers' Hand Hygiene Compliance and Hospital – Associated Infections in Adult Intensive Care Units: A Systematic Review." Her secondary reviewer was Dr. Jean Walker.

The title of Dr. Rachel Lee's systematic review was "Effectiveness of Patient-Centered Weight Management Counseling in Overweight and Obese Adults in a Primary Care Setting: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." Her secondary reviewer was Dr. Molly Moore.

Dr. Lynndi Price's systematic review title was "Effect of International Normalized Ratio Monitoring at Home Versus the Clinic or Monitoring Adherence in Adults Taking Oral Anticoagulant Medications: A Systematic Review." Her secondary reviewer was Elizabeth Hinton.



Dr. Tina Ferrell



Dr. Connie Lewis



Dr. Jonathan Wilson

Expanding knowledge of the DNP across the state



Dr. Robin Christian



Teresa Jones

Associate Professor **Dr. Robin Christian** and **Teresa Jones**, nurse educator, presented a podium presentation late October at the MNA Convention in Biloxi. The presentation titled "Expanding Credentials and the Benefits of the DNP" focused on defining the difference between a Doctorate of Nursing Practice and PhD in Nursing degree and the growth of DNPs nationwide. Jones later went on to talk about the work of the Mississippi Educational Consortium for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (MECDNP) and the impact that Mississippi DNPs are having on the state as a whole. To find out more information about the MECDNP consortium, visit their website at umc.edu/mecdnp. Also, save the date for the combined DNP Leadership Institute/Mississippi Health Care Symposium on March 1-2, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Flowood, Mississippi.

Jonas Scholars attend national leadership conference



Kayla Carr and Angie Duck in front of the U.S. Capitol.

The SON's 2016-18 Jonas Scholars **Kayla Carr** and **Angie Duck** represented the school at this year's Jonas Scholars Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. last month. According to the website, the goal of the Jonas Nurse Leaders 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 two PhD students participated in a network with other scholars across the nation, while learning of the current research efforts that are underway. They heard reports on children's environmental health and attended lectures from prominent leaders in the profession of nursing, like National League for Nursing's CEO Dr. Beverly Malone. Carr and Duck also spoke with leading editors about publishing manuscripts in journals like American Journal of Nursing. "It was an absolute honor to represent UMMC SON and the state of Mississippi at the Jonas Scholars conference," said Duck.

Assistant professor and DNP student selected for HEADWAE honors



Dr. Molly Moore



Robert Ware

Dr. Molly Moore, assistant professor, and DNP student **Robert Ware** were selected to be the representatives from UMMC for the Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Education (HEADWAE). The two will be joined by their counterparts from the other 34 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges for a luncheon in their honor to highlight their contribution to promoting academic excellence and commitment to Mississippi's future. The honorees will be invited to the state Capitol and will receive recognition from the Lt. Governor and each chamber of the Mississippi Legislature prior to the luncheon. According to the website, the goal of the appreciation day is "to encourage excellence among those involved

in higher education as a way to further leadership, increase knowledge across the broad spectrum of education [and] promote good citizens capable of thriving in today's society, who are prepared to meet future challenges."

First course certified in Quality Matters



Dr. Janet Y. Harris



Dr. Michelle Palokas

DNP 706: Evaluation Approaches, Models & Methods was the first SON course submitted to and certified by Quality Matters (QM). QM is a peer-created and reviewed series of standards to measure quality in course design and has been adopted as an accepted standard by institutions in 48 states. The course under review is compared to eight general and 43 specific standards. QM certification comes when the course reaches 85 percent and above. The SON has also submitted DNP 740 Project Management for QM certification review.



JBI next course dates



Dr. Robin Christian is teaching a JBI course January 22-26, 2018 for DNP 702 students and faculty interested in being secondary reviewers. **The deadline to sign up is Jan. 5, 2018.** Faculty may also audit the course, if they wish.

First nursing student elected as student body president



William Thomas, in his final year of the Traditional BSN program in the School of Nursing, is the 2017-18 president of the Associated Student Body.

Courtesy of: Public Affairs

For the first time in the history of the Medical Center, a student from within the ranks of the SON has been elected as the president of the Associated Student Body (ASB), which represents all seven health science schools on campus. **William Thomas**, who is in the final year of the Traditional BSN program, was sworn into office as the new ASB president on May 1, 2017.

Dr. Kim Hoover, dean of nursing, said that it is an honor for the school to be represented in a leadership position.

“This is a point of pride for everyone associated with the School of Nursing,” she said. “Nurses are ever present in the health care continuum. Being represented in a leadership role, especially in a health science education

environment where interprofessional learning is becoming more prevalent, is important.”

Dr. Jerry Clark, chief student affairs officer and associate dean for student affairs in the SOM, said that having a student from outside the medical school “underscores ASB as an organization that represents all students.”

“ASB is an interprofessional organization,” Clark said. “William [Thomas] leads a team that mobilizes a lot of students each day, each week.”

Thomas, who grew up in Ridgeland, originally had plans to study law but found that course of study not to his liking.

“I just finished an externship in a surgical trauma ICU, and I’m going to be working there all this year,” Thomas said. “I would love to stay here at UMMC. I think this is a great place to learn. You see a lot.”

He hopes that his participation encourages other students across campus to become more active.

“I think a lot of students feel disconnected from the decisions that are made, especially with regards to their education and their experiences here as a student,” Thomas said. “I think having a seat at the table is a big deal, and more students need to actively seek that.”

Faculty promotions



Dr. Josie Bidwell



Dr. Michelle Palokas



Kayla Carr



Kim Douglas



Dr. Sharon McElwain



Kathy Rhodes

Congratulations to our faculty members who received promotions since the last issue! Dr. Josie Bidwell, director of UNACARE clinical services, was promoted to associate professor. Dr. Michelle Palokas, assistant professor, was also promoted into the role of director of the DNP program last held by Dr. Janet Y. Harris. Four faculty members Kayla Carr, Kim Douglas, Dr. Sharon McElwain and Kathy Rhodes advanced to assistant professor positions.

SON professor recognized at the national and local level



Dr. Audwin Fletcher after receiving his award from 100 Black Men, Inc.

It has been a busy year for **Dr. Audwin Fletcher**, professor and director of the acute care adult-gerontology and family nurse practitioner tracks.

He was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) by the National Institute of Nursing Research. The advisory council will meet three times a year to provide guidance on the direction of nursing research.

Earlier in the year, Fletcher was elected president-elect for the Association of Black Nursing Faculty (ABNF) and will be installed as president of the organization at the 31st ABNF Annual Scientific Conference in London in June 2018. An active member in the American Academy of Nursing since 2010, he was also elected to the selection committee for 2017-19.

At the local level, Fletcher received the Presidential Award for mentoring from 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc.

Williams ABNF award



Dr. Renée Williams

Congratulations to **Dr. Renée Williams** on earning the Johnella Banks Member Achievement Award from the Association of Black Nursing Faculty (ABNF)! The professor and director of continuing education received the award from ABNF earlier this year.

The award is named in honor of Johnella Banks a nurse, past president of the National Black Nurses Association and former faculty member at Howard University in Silver Spring, Maryland. This award recognizes ABNF members who have distinguished themselves in multiple areas of nursing over the previous year.

Fouquier earns honors



Dr. Kate Fouquier

Associate Professor **Dr. Kate Fouquier** received an award from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for her grant submission of “Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention-Interprofessional Collaborative Practice.”

She also achieved fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). According to their website, fellowship is “bestowed upon midwives who demonstrate leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement, [and] have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession.”

Newest Phi Kappa Phi inductees



Joining Dean Hoover, eight students from the Traditional BSN, Master’s and PhD in Nursing program were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Chapter of the University of Mississippi. This year’s inductees include Kim Douglas, Courtney Fontenot, Denise Gipson, Kelsey Jones, Luke LeBlanc, Kimberly Meador, Kayla Ponds and Reed Thames. Every year the nationwide honor society accepts more than 30,000 from among 300 campuses to make up a “global network of the best and brightest, a community of scholars and professionals building an enduring legacy for all generations.”

Summer/fall clinic updates

The SON clinics have had a busy summer and fall with events across the Jackson and Delta communities. New staff members were hired at the South Delta clinics, Lanier High School Teen Wellness Clinic and UNACARE Mobile Clinic. Welcome to the team!

The South Delta clinics welcomed nurse practitioner Sarah Stoner, SON alumna. The Lanier High clinic recently acquired nurse practitioner Koscher Jackson, patient care assistant Jasymin Sheppard, educator Jitoria “Tori” Jones and Mississippi State Department of Health social worker Dianne Mounger. The UNACARE Mobile Clinic, sponsored largely in part by Regions Bank and in memoriam of Wallace and Elva Gooch, is now staffed by nurse practitioner and former faculty member Pam Helms and patient care assistant Micha’el Sheriff.

Through an interprofessional partnership with **Dr. Kate Fouquier**, Lanier High clinic director, and Dr. Elizabeth Carr, assistant professor of dental hygiene, dental hygiene students have been providing oral hygiene aids and informational presentations to students through Shooting for Smiles, a collaborative program to provide dental screening and protective mouth guards to the Lanier High Lady Bulldogs girls basketball team.



The Lanier clinic also initiated the “Ties for Guys” drive which collected neckties for the boys football team that could be worn on gamedays.



Working in conjunction with the UNACARE Family Health Clinic, the second cohort of Forest Hill High School community health advocates organized and conducted a health fair at their school that screened over 250 people.



In partnership with the Head Start program, the UNACARE Mobile Clinic has hit the road to serve the wellness needs of the Jackson area head starts. Over 50 well-child examinations have been conducted thus far.



The UNACARE Mobile Clinic participate alongside the SON at the JPS Alignment Jackson Career Fair and demonstrate what it is like to be a nurse to all JPS 9th grade students.



UNACARE’s Halloween Health Fair was up to its normal tricks and treats when faculty, staff and student volunteers saw 45 kids from the Midtown area for games and trick-or-treating. The mobile clinic was also on-site for blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

Summer/fall semester activities

SON students stayed busy throughout the summer and fall months providing free health screenings, participating in walks, attending conferences, serving in mission trips, trick-or-treating and generally having some fun!



Memory Garden at the March of Dimes Walk



BSN students teach Mustard Seedsters about handwashing.



2017-18 Nursing Student Body officers



SON booth at MNA convention in Biloxi



BSN students volunteer at Spooky U, Walk for Alzheimer's Mississippi and a medical mission trip to Haiti.



2017-18 Senior Class officers



2017-18 Junior Class officers

Summer/fall semester events from Oxford campus

Accelerated BSN students on the Oxford campus participated in various events across Ole Miss. The Oxford campus also welcomed Amanda Weeks, instructor, and Jessica Hill, administrative assistant, to their team. Glad to have you two on board! In October, **Neeli Kirkendall**, instructor and DNP student, presented “Concept-based Teaching/Learning Using Problem-based Learning” at the MNA convention in Biloxi.



Neeli Kirkendall

Earlier this semester, the 2018 class had IPE activities with the SOP and Speech Language Pathology and Dietetics departments. This fall, they also went to the Willie Price Laboratory School to perform vision screenings on children and returned later to teach handwashing. To get ready for the holiday season, they hosted a “packing party” for Operation Christmas child shoeboxes.



2017 Oxford Accelerated BSN graduates recite the Nightingale Pledge for the first time at their pinning ceremony.



2018 Oxford Accelerated BSN students pin their name to abide by the SON's Student Honor Code of Professional Behavior.



Students pack Operation Christmas Child boxes during a packing party.



Students check blood pressure and glucose readings for Ole Miss employees during the Wellness on Wheels health fair, part of Rebel Well.



Students show off their nursing skills in the Simulation lab to their loved ones during Oxford Family Day earlier this year.



Students conduct screenings during a recent CHA event.

Houses debut and ambassadors/officers named

Farrah Banks, director of student affairs and service learning, introduced a mentorship program for incoming Traditional BSN students earlier this year. In her role, Banks has seen firsthand how challenging and intimidating nursing school can be for new students. She understood that this is a normal response faced by incoming students and wanted to implement a support system that would assist them with this transition into the profession of nursing.

Banks created the ambassador mentor-mentee initiative that has been incorporated into the student ambassador curriculum. The objective is to assign incoming Traditional BSN students, through a special selection ceremony, to one of five houses headed up by a group of student ambassadors. The five houses named after five significant contributors to the SON - Yvonne P. Bertolet, Louise B. Chambliss, Kim W. Hoover, Christine L. Oglevee and Jo-Ann M. Vandergriff - help students with class expectations, campus navigation, studying techniques, survival tips, housing questions and general mentorship. The ambassadors and students have fully committed to making this program a success.

Students selected to the 2017-18 SON **Ambassador** class are Regan Crane, Elizabeth Foresman, Blake Fulton, Olivia Herrington, Tori Hines, Kelsey Jones, Walker Kimes, Luke LeBlanc, Madeleine Maund, Julianne Ranis, Brittany Sanders, Allen Spencer, Shelby Sumner, Reed Thames,



2017-18 School of Nursing Ambassadors

Emily Theriot, Sara Townsend and Ashley Williamson.

Sanders Coley, president; Emily Shack, vice president; Reed Thames, secretary; Tab McGee, treasurer; Cara Lee Crawford, parliamentarian; and Lauryn Mendrop, philanthropy chair were selected to serve as officers for the **Nursing Student Body**. See page 13 for photo.

Elected **Senior Class officers** include William Thomas, president/ASB president; Jake Penick, vice president; Emily Theriot, secretary; Heather Couch, treasurer; and Anna McLain, reporter. See page 13 for photo.

Elizabeth Haney, president; Lauren Harbin, vice president; Katie Hartmann, secretary; Anna Miles, treasurer; and Brady Darnell, reporter were selected for the **Junior Class officers**. See page 13 for photo.

New partnership streamlines off-campus housing



Tara Rushing

The School of Nursing spearheaded an effort to bring an online platform to the Medical Center that will assist students, faculty and staff with finding housing and connecting with potential roommates. Earlier this year, **Tara Rushing**, admission counselor for the SON, led the search for a service that would make finding off-campus housing easier and more efficient.

After researching other colleges and universities across the state, she found that the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University both used an online service called OffCampus Partners (OCP) to assist their campuses with potential housing opportunities. Used by the nation's leading universities, OCP software brings together property managers and future tenants to streamline the process by mimicking aspects of popular social media sites. After further research and communications, Rushing presented a proposal of the platform to the UMMC Student Affairs council for adoption. It was unanimously approved to be used as a campus-wide resource. OCP offers a fully UMMC-branded site complete with a UMMC URL that will feature search functions, roommate profiles, educational research repository, message boards and a university console for site management and reporting. Rushing and OCP have already been successful in recruiting numerous property listings to the site, which is planned to go live in early 2018.