The Capsule

Fall 2007

Newsletter for the alumni, friends, faculty, and staff of the Capstone College of Nursing
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Keeping in Touch

We want to spread your news to fellow alumni. Share your experiences, ventures, career news, honors, stories, photos, and awards.

Email your news to Shelley Jordan at sdjordan@bama.ua.edu or call (205) 348-9876.

The Capsule is published by:
The Capstone College of Nursing
Box 870358
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dr. Sara Barger, Dean
Shelley Jordan, Director of Advancement

Information in this publication is gathered from sources considered reliable. The Capstone College of Nursing cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in this publication.
When the temperature is 106° in Tuscaloosa, can fall be far behind? August graduation was a very special time for the 21 RNs who received their BSN and the 19 master’s students who received their MSN degrees. The graduates came from five states in addition to Alabama. Mary Stewart from Idaho was our most distant participant. Two graduates are currently serving in the military. One of the pleasures of a graduation of on-line students is getting to see - often for the first time - our students and now graduates. All were quick to tell me that on-line certainly did not mean “easier”, it just meant “possible”.

With the closure of one chapter, we now open another for the 297 freshman nursing students who began their academic careers at the Capstone and for the 88 students who begin their upper division nursing courses. Our preliminary enrollment numbers top off at 1290, 17% higher than last year and the highest in our history. While most are from Alabama, they come from as far away as Maine and California.

All are excited to be at the Capstone and feeling very good about their career choice. I would be remiss if I did not share that several talked with me about their financial concerns and whether they would be able to stay here. This is not surprising, given that nursing students graduate with the highest average debt of any major at The University of Alabama. So if you are an alumna or friend of the College of Nursing, please consider setting up your own scholarship or contributing to the scholarship fund established by our nursing alumni association. What a wonderful way to not only positively affect the life of one student, but also to make a difference in our health care system.

Of course fall also means football at The University of Alabama. I hope you will be able to join me at our traditional barbecue lunch on the quad on October 6. Additional information about the event is included in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.
Summer Internship

While many college students were sunbathing at the beaches this summer, several Capstone nursing students chose the exciting opportunity to participate in internships at three participating hospitals: Trinity Medical Center and Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham and DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

Nursing is both a science and an art. Because the canvas of nursing is human relationships meshed with illness and wellness, the only way to improve one’s grasp of nursing clinical excellence is to invest time and learn from practicing nurses and faculty. The internship originated with our Dean. She envisioned a summer course that would help our graduates become more skilled and confident at the bedside. In order to achieve this goal Dean Barger enlisted partnerships with acute care facilities that would give summer employment with clinical education for our undergraduates. These partnerships provided both the acute care institution and the nursing student time to form relationships and a canvas of patient and families. A pivotal role in the acute care internship plan is the presence of a CCN faculty member at each site. The faculty member helps the students make the link from the classroom to the bedside with the goal of demonstrating clinical excellence to the patients and families under our care.

CCN Welcomes New Faculty

Dr. Janyce Dyer, Professor, comes to us from Florida International University where she was Research Professor. Prior positions include Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Professor at Barry University, Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Associate Professor and Director of the Adult Psychiatric Program at Yale University. Her most recent research focuses on substance abuse in seriously mentally ill adults. She holds a PhD from Catholic University, a MS with specialization in psychiatric nursing from Rutgers, a BSN from Stockton State College and an Associate Degree from Valencia Community College. She also holds a post-doctoral certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.

Leslie Palardy, Instructor, received her BSN and MSN from the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing. Her experience is in adult cardiac telemetry and post anesthesia care.

Dr. Alice March, Assistant Professor, comes to us from New York. She taught at Binghamton University this summer and Mansfield University last year. She has a clinical background as a family nurse practitioner. Her PhD and BSN are from the Decker School of Nursing, Binghamton University and her associate’s degree is from Mohawk Valley Community College. She has an FNP certificate from Community General Hospital. Her research focuses on adolescent risk taking behaviors.
Homecoming Events for 2007

The temperature keeps rising in Tuscaloosa! Boy is it HOT!!! The temperature isn't the only thing rising in Tuscaloosa right now. Nursing at the Capstone is one of the hottest schools on campus at the University of Alabama. The Capstone College of Nursing is growing rapidly. As you already know, we have outgrown our current facilities on campus. Your UACCNAA has committed to raising $100,000.00 for the building campaign. A state of the art building has been designed specific for nursing education. Please make your pledge today.

Every homecoming, your UACCNAA hosts a BBQ on the quad to re-acquaint professors, faculty, staff, former graduates, and students. It is a great time of food and fellowship on homecoming day. The BBQ will start 2 1/2 hours before kick-off, October 6, 2007. All members of the UACCNAA will receive one free plate. Additional tickets can be purchased for only $12.00. Call and reserve your place with us on homecoming. Please contact Shelley Jordan, Director of Advancement @ 348-9876.

Last year on homecoming we held a raffle fundraiser raffling Alabama memorabilia. Each member will receive one free raffle ticket. Additional tickets can be purchased for $1.00 from Shelley Jordan. Some of the items to be raffled include: 2 autographed footballs by Coach Nick Saban, an autographed jersey by former Crimson Tide player Dameco Ryans, a pair of season tickets to the ladies Gymnastics meets, etc…

Last year, the UACCNAA board of directors sponsored and helped construct the nursing homecoming float. We have re-committed $500.00 to this project for this year’s nursing float. We are proud of the nursing student body for winning 1st place in the homecoming parade.

As president of the UACCNAA, I am very proud to be involved with the Capstone College of Nursing. Our future looks brighter than ever at the University of Alabama. We appreciate your continued efforts and support you give to the UACCNAA and the Capstone College of Nursing.

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As Always,

Roll Tide Roll!!!

Philip B. Fikes, CRNA
President, UACCNAA
Established in 2001, the Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame was created to pay tribute to nurses and others who, through their work and accomplishments, have brought honor and fame to the profession of nursing and to the State of Alabama.

The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing will host the fourth Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at the NorthRiver Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa. Six distinguished individuals have been selected for induction. They are:

- Dr. Janet Awtrey
- JoAnn Broadus
- Jung Ja Chwe
- Shirley Hester
- Dr. Jean Kelley
- Dr. Marguerite Kinney

Individually and collectively the inductees have greatly influenced the profession of nursing and health care in the state and nation. To honor them is to honor the most noble of professions, nursing.
Capstone Rural Health Center Breaks Ground for New Building

A new clinic for the Capstone Rural Health Center is being built on Highway 269 in Parrish, AL. The Parrish Clinic is now a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike, meaning the cost for services are based on income on a sliding-fee scale. This clinic serves families with lower incomes who are uninsured or have obstacles in obtaining the health care they need. Thirty-five percent of patients that visit the clinic are illiterate and many have no phone. The facility will be a modular building with 4,500 square feet, containing state-of-the-art equipment, high speed Internet, electronic records, new computer systems and TeleHealth monitoring systems. The number of exam rooms will be doubled to six. Nursing students from Bevill State and Capstone College of Nursing rotate through the clinic.

News from the Graduate Program at the Capstone College of Nursing

The Graduate Program at the Capstone College of Nursing is proud to offer two new programs of study for practicing nurses, the Master of Science in Nursing preparing Clinical Nurse Leaders and the Doctorate of Education with Nurse Educator Specialization.

Clinical Nurse Leader

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is a new role that is integrated within the existing Case Management curriculum. The role was developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as a way to provide the best possible cost-effective care for patients. The Clinical Nurse Leader relies on skills in patient care and requires in-depth knowledge in quality management, nursing leadership, evidence-based practice and outcomes analysis. This master’s prepared nurse can design, implement and evaluate care management at the system level or at the point-of-care.

Doctorate of Education with Nurse Educator Specialization

The College of Education in collaboration with the Capstone College of Nursing offers a new program of study designed to prepare practicing nurses for faculty positions in higher education. Given the need to provide superior education and training for the next generation of nurses and the need for qualified nursing faculty, two programs of study are available. A baccalaureate prepared nurse can obtain a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and a Doctorate of Education in Instructional Leadership (EdD) with Nurse Educator Specialization. Nurses that have an MSN degree may enter the Ed.D. with Nurse Educator Specialization program to earn a doctorate in Instructional Leadership. The Ed.D. provides students with the teaching skills, curriculum development strategies, and preparation needed for the faculty role in a community college or university setting. To accommodate the full-time work schedules of practicing nurses, coursework is delivered using a variety of strategies, including online and weekend delivery, as well as a blend of the two approaches. Courses are designed and taught by faculty in the Colleges of Nursing and Education.
Since fall 2006 the Capstone College of Nursing has used high fidelity simulation throughout the upper division portion of the curriculum. Our high fidelity simulators are computerized manikins that breathe and blink, have heart and breath sounds, and can even respond appropriately to medications administered virtually. The college received our first adult simulator in January 2005 and since that time we have acquired a second adult simulator and a child manikin. Our human patient simulators are equipped with 90 different scenarios that can be used to help nursing students develop assessment and critical thinking skills. Scenarios vary from a patient with diabetic ketoacidosis, a mother who delivered twins and has a complication of postpartum hemorrhage, a young child who experiences electrolyte disturbances, a male brought to the emergency room with a gunshot wound, an elderly patient experiencing complications after hip surgery and a teenager with severe complications from cocaine overdose. The beauty of the human patient simulator is that the manikin’s vital signs, heart, breath and bowel sounds are appropriate for each medical condition. Students have to quickly assess the patient’s situation and respond appropriately in order to stop the patient’s downward trend and turn the condition around.

Simulation provides all students the opportunity to care for patients with low-frequency, high-risk conditions. There would be no way that each student would have this opportunity without simulation. The Capstone College of Nursing was the first nursing school in the state to incorporate high fidelity simulators from Medical Education Technologies, Inc. into a nursing curriculum. Positive responses from students validate the significance of this learning experience. Simulation has now become a standard teaching strategy in each clinical course in the undergraduate curriculum. Students tell us that they may forget what they read, but they never forget what they see and do.

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<th>Phillip Fikes</th>
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<td>Justin Carroll</td>
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RN Mobility Program Obtains Work-Force Diversity Grant

Dr. Ruby Morrison received an award of $1.5 million from the Department of Health and Human Services, Human Resources and Services Administration, Division of Nursing, Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant (NWD) program. $656,000 (45%) of the funds will go directly to students in the form of stipends or scholarships. The purpose of the three-year project is to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses. Student nurse enrollment comprises approximately 22% minorities while the population of Alabama is approximately 28% minorities. To increase diversity in the workplace, priority will be given to minorities, including males, in selection of recipients of BAMA-BSN stipends and scholarships.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sara Barger, Dean, and Dr. Jeanette VanderMeer, RN Mobility Coordinator, partnerships have been established with numerous community colleges and clinical agencies in Alabama over the last several years. Community college partners in the NWD grant project were selected from those established partnerships based on the percentage of minority students currently enrolled in their colleges. Partners include Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, University of West Alabama in Livingston, Lawson Community College in Birmingham, Wallace Community College in Dothan, and Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville.

Students from those ADN nursing programs are invited to apply for BAMA-BSN, indicating interest in advancing their education at The University of Alabama to earn a BSN degree. Selection of participants (who must qualify as educationally or economically disadvantaged) is based on need for assistance in completing their education. Faculty mentors from the community colleges will assist the students develop individualized plans for success, monitor individual progress weekly, facilitate group seminars monthly, and authorize payment of $250 per month stipends as students complete planned activities.

BAMA-BSN is also available for RNs who have graduated from those colleges and are taking general education courses in preparation for the RN to BSN track at UA. All recipients must be full-time, as defined by the RN to BSN program.

In the first year of the grant, six $5000 scholarships will be awarded to RN to BSN students enrolled full-time in nursing at UA. The numbers and amounts vary in successive years. The grant provides the college with a faculty member (half-time the first year and full-time thereafter), a full-time Mentoring and Recruitment Coordinator, and a program assistant for secretarial support.

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CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING AMBASSADORS NAMED FOR 2008

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<tr>
<th>Amy Bedingfield</th>
<th>Anna Davis</th>
<th>Corinne Lewey</th>
<th>Kendall Parkinson</th>
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<td>Kathleen Benak</td>
<td>Sally Dye</td>
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<td>Rebecca Daugherty</td>
<td>Tyler Keenum</td>
<td>Mindy Muir</td>
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Faculty Highlights

- Dr. Melondie Carter has been selected to be the Capstone College of Nursing Podcast Professor for the University of Alabama.

- CCN Undergraduate Faculty Receive the Alabama League for Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award

The Capstone College of Nursing Undergraduate Faculty received the 2007 Alabama League for Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award. The Excellence in Teaching Award is given to nurse educators who are recognized for the development and implementation of innovative teaching strategies in a variety of settings. The emphasis is placed on projects using outcome measures and other therapeutic nursing interventions. The CCN project was entitled, “Simulation at the Capstone: A Mark of Teaching/Learning Excellence. The purpose of this project was to facilitate the nursing students’ socialization into the role of the professional nurse by developing their critical thinking abilities and clinical judgment through the integration of human patient simulation using case scenarios throughout the undergraduate nursing program. Dr. Marsha H. Adams and Ms. Becky Edwards served as co-project directors.

- Dr. Roy Ann Sherrod has been appointed to the Tuscaloosa County Drug Court Task Force.

- Dr. Susan Gaskins has been elected to serve as the Director-at-Large for the 2007 – 2010 HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification (HANC) Board of Directors.

- The Sigma Theta Tau (nursing honor society), Epsilon Omega chapter, awarded a $1,000 grant to Dr. Marilyn Handley, Dr. Jeri Dunkin, and Dr. Linda Dunn for the conduction of a research project. The title is: “The relationship between spiritual perspectives, spiritual well-being, and the provision of spiritual care of registered nurses: A pilot study.” Data collection is complete and analysis of data is underway.
2006 Refereed Journal Articles


Billy Gilliland is the recipient of the national award, Clinical Practice Excellence Non-traditional Setting from AACN for 2007. This award is given to a nurse who is committed to both critical care nursing and has made an impact outside of acute care settings. Billy has chosen a lifetime of contribution as a nurse who serves those with unmet health care needs. At a local level in rural Walker County he runs a food bank in conjunction with his church. They also provide hot meals to those who coal mining jobs have been shut down. He also serves the distressed urban district where he is employed as a nurse manager of the Surgical Critical Care Unit. In this area he works to provide health screenings and health promotion education. At the regional level he works within a health care team that travels to the “Black Belt” of Alabama on weekends. This volunteer team goes to the most isolated and under served areas of Alabama in order to give them access to the most basic of health care services. At the international level Billy has led and assisted with efforts to supply vaccinations and surgical intervention in Africa and Honduras. He has traveled around the world to offer his abilities to those in greatest need. The picture accompanying this information is of Billy giving vaccinations in a remote home in Africa. Billy has been an RN mobility student at the Capstone College of Nursing for the two years.

From Billy...

As a young adult I left rural Alabama, and saw the world through travel experiences as a Navy corpsman. These experiences taught me that people regardless of their culture, color, or geographic location needed interventions and insights of caring nurses. One of the purposes of my life has been to lead efforts to improve the health of my community, region, and the world. This aim has been pursued through the support of family, hospital, church, and local AACN chapter.

My daily efforts are focused locally. As an outreach of our church, I manage a food bank. I also volunteer to perform health screening and evaluations at Drummond Coal Mines. My acute care facility is located in a distressed urban neighborhood. The managers of our acute care facility serve through construction work, serving as readers and resources to the local schools, and lobbying for healthcare access for uninsured. My local AACN chapter helps our schools in this area by obtaining supplies like toothbrushes, Band-Aids, over the counter medicines, and small Christmas presents for the school nurse to distribute.

At the regional level I am in a group that takes a health care van to the Black Belt of Alabama. This outreach uses rural churches so that patients without access to care or financial resources can have their wounds cleaned and evaluated, education relevant to prevention of hypertension and diabetes, and health screening.

My community also encompasses the world. I have traveled to Africa, and Central America as part of a medical mission’s team. Their needs are so basic. However, by providing nutrition and simple medical care these communities are able to continue existence. My time in these regions has opened my eyes to populations who have so little but are grateful and gracious.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Promoting the profession of nursing and quality nursing education required commitment. Membership in the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association is one way to demonstrate your commitment to the University of Alabama’s Capstone College of Nursing. Your membership is an important way to help provide scholarships, reward student excellence, and increase the financial base that allows us to engage in activities beyond day-to-day operations. If you have any questions about the University of Alabama Nursing Alumni Association, call us at (205) 348-6639 or write to us at the address below.

The University of Alabama
CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Name ________________________________________________________________
first                                           middle                                                  last

If you are a UA alumnus/a, please indicate the following:

Date degree was awarded ________________ (month/year)     Last name at graduation ________________

Address __________________________________________________________
street

                                                             city                                                         state                                                         zip

Employment ______________________________________________________

Employer’s Address _____________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________________

Home Phone ___________________________________________________

Business Phone ________________________________________________

Spouse’s Name _________________________________________________

Spouse’s Employer _____________________________________________

My annual membership gift is as follows:

(   ) .....................................................................$60-$99 Support Group Membership
(   ) .....................................................................$100-$249 Century Circle
(   ) .....................................................................$250-$499 Crimson Circle
(   ) .....................................................................$500-$999 Ivory Circle
(   ) .....................................................................$1000-$4,999 Denny Chimes Circle
(   ) .....................................................................$5,000-$9,999 Capstone Circle
(   ) .....................................................................$10,000 and above The 1831 Circle

Family memberships are encouraged

(   ) Minimum of $75 ........................................ UACCNAA Alumni Association Family Membership

Matching Gifts Program

Matching gifts are an excellent way to double your support to the College. Does your or your spouse’s employer have a matching gift program? (   ) yes (   ) no
If yes, please provide the name and address of the organization:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association Fund and mail to The University of Alabama, Office of Advancement Services, Box 870101, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0101.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will receive an official receipt of your donation by the end of the calendar year from The University of Alabama Office of Advancement Services.
The University of Alabama
Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association

invites you to a

**Homecoming Bar-B-Q on the Quad**

Saturday, October 6
two and one-half hours before kickoff

**FREE** to all UACCNAA members
$12 for non-members

Join the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association, faculty, and staff under the UACCNAA tent on the Quad for a pre-game feast and fun. We will be raffling Alabama memorabilia...Each participating UACCNAA member will receive one free raffle entry!

**Please make reservations by no later than October 1**

MEMBERS: RSVP to Shelley Jordan at (205) 348-9876 or sdjordan@bama.ua.edu

NON-MEMBERS: Please send checks (with the names of those attending) to:
The University of Alabama
Capstone College of Nursing
c/o Shelley Jordan
Box 870358
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0358
Schedule of Events

October 6, 2007 – Homecoming on Quad

October 18, 2007 – Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame

October 19, 2007 – Board of Visitors Meeting

November 8, 2007 – Scholarship Dinner

March 7, 2008 – Bridger Lectureship