Fall at the Capstone is always exciting, but this fall surpasses all others for the College of Nursing. July and August were spent getting relocated to our beautiful new building at 650 University Boulevard just across from DCH Regional Medical Center. Our faculty, now settled into their new offices, is teaching in classrooms and in the simulation center equipped with state-of-the-art technology. And with the new space, we have been able to take more students this fall.

There are those who say the nursing shortage is over so why are you increasing your enrollment now? And in fact, we know that vacancy rates are declining in health care facilities not only in Alabama but throughout the U.S. There are lots of reasons; a sluggish economy, nurses scheduled for retirement postponing it for awhile, hospital closings and fiscal losses, budget freezes and questions about the Federal Health Plan.

However, the experts agree that this trend is short-lived and that employment opportunities for nurses will continue to be strong well into the decade. Moreover, those of us who have witnessed numerous shortages throughout the last four decades know that our current situation is different because our population is different. The baby boomers start retiring next year. Their needs and expectations for health care will overwhelm a system already struggling to incorporate “pay for performance” quality measures that will take nurses to implement.

At the same time, the health care system is moving toward a focus on primary care and wellness and these services are being included in insurance packages, often for the first time. We are producing graduates at the BSN, MSN, and DNP levels who are well prepared to contribute significantly to health care’s changing paradigm. I can only conclude that we are right where we are supposed to be, preparing nurses with the ability to move our country’s health care forward.
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JEFFERSON DAVIS, UA OFFERS NURSES MOBILITY

Article originally published in the University of Alabama News June 28, 2010

Advanced nursing degrees are within easier reach for the area registered nurses through a new Internet-based partnership between Jefferson Davis Community College and The University of Alabama’s Capstone College of Nursing.

The agreement [formalized July 14, 2010] provides registered nurses with a flexible avenue for continued education, including opportunities for the nurses to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and/or a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

Through the use of the Internet, participants can complete the required nursing courses for the BSN degree in one year, without facing the restrictions of being in class on a specific time and day. Instead, RN students have the flexibility of choosing the best time to go online and complete the requirements.

Clinical activities are designed on an individual basis, and efforts are made to arrange locations and times convenient to students.

UA’s Capstone College of Nursing has established similar partnerships with 16 Associate Degree in Nursing program sites at community colleges and universities and 10 clinical agencies.

“These partnerships between the Associate Degree programs and the University of Alabama are truly a win-win situation. The graduates from the ADN programs have an opportunity to continue their nursing education online in their home communities while continuing to work as registered nurses. If they choose, they could earn the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees from UA without ever having to leave home. The faculty in the Associate Degree programs who serve as representatives to the Partnership Advisory Council also have input into the RN Mobility Tracks. The faculty at the ADN sites also have the opportunity to continue their nursing education by enrolling in either the master’s or doctoral programs at UA.”

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT ADERHOLT VISITS CRHC

On Monday, August 23, 2010, United State Representative Robert Aderholt (R-Haleyville) visited Capstone Rural Health Center. After a tour of the facility, Aderholt discussed the future goals of the center and how Federally Qualified Health Centers and Nurse-Managed Centers will affect health care in the future. Also discussed were the needs of Alabama’s rural communities, provider shortages, and the role of electronic records in health care delivery.

Pictured from left is CRHC Director Dr. Jeri Dunkin, Rep. Robert Aderholt, his daughter Mary Aderholt, and Nurse Practitioner Dr. David Jones.
NEWS AND EVENTS

A NEW ERA FOR CCN BEGINS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME!
Nursing education at The University of Alabama has become a more interactive experience with the opening of the new Capstone College of Nursing.

The 64,000 square foot facility is UA’s first building specifically designed for nursing instruction and is a leader in integration of health care simulation.

Located at the northwest corner of McFarland Boulevard, in the 600 block of University Boulevard across from DCH Regional Medical Center, the Neoclassical building serves as a gateway to the UA campus.

“Today’s nursing students are experiential learners,” says Dr. Sara Barger, Dean of UA’s Capstone College of Nursing. “They require hands-on learning in order to provide the highest level of care to their patients. This building goes a long way in helping the College meet those needs.”

The $16.9 million Capstone College of Nursing houses a 148-seat auditorium, 3 large classrooms, a computer lab, a 34-bed clinical practice lab, 6 simulation labs, 2 quiet study rooms, a student lounge area and administrative offices for faculty and staff.

The building has wireless access and network drop stations for student access, as well as for broadcasting real-time simulated medical emergencies to any classroom.

The Simulation Center for Clinical Excellence, located on the second floor of the new facility, has six rooms, each containing a METI or Guamard simulator for practice scenarios.

The simulators are life-like mannequins that can be programmed for various conditions such as stroke or heart attack and exhibit symptoms similar to live patients, enabling nursing students to gain critical experience before the stakes are too high.

Instructors in a control room create patient conditions ranging from a mother in labor to a 60-year-old patient with symptoms of heart failure. The 34-bed clinical practice lab is equipped to help students gain hands-on experience caring for patients using electronic medical records.

“Our goal is to produce graduates who can provide quality, safe care and who feel comfortable in a technology-driven environment,” said Dr. Marsha Adams, Professor of Nursing and Assistant Dean of the Undergraduate program. “We want to reduce the orientation time for our graduates when they start with a health care agency.”

The new building also helps The University of Alabama address the nationwide shortage of nurses. The additional 43,000 square feet allows the Capstone College of Nursing to accommodate its unprecedented growth.

Since 2000, the College’s undergraduate enrollment has more than tripled, and graduate enrollment grew from seven students to more than 300 in the same time period.

“A new Capstone College of Nursing building serves as a visible example of The University of Alabama’s commitment to providing our students with a state-of-the-art learning environment,” said UA President Robert E. Witt.

The architectural firm for the project was TurnerBatson. Doster Construction was the contractor.
The Simulation Center for Clinical Excellence

CCN is now home to 6 new patient simulators. Four simulation laboratories, run by a central control room, each contain a new METI iStan. The iStan reacts according to scenarios programmed into computers and exhibits signs similar to a “real” patient.

Two other simulation labs, run by a separate control room, contain a METI Pediatric simulator and a Laerdal Birthing Simulator.

Stryker and CCN

“Our Clinical Practice Lab and Simulation Center contain 38 new Stryker beds made specifically for the Capstone College of Nursing. Stryker is one of the world’s leading medical technology companies and we are proud to partner with them.”

Shelley Jordan, Director of Advancement

“Stryker is honored to have our hospital beds and support surfaces in one of the top, state-of-the art, nursing teaching institutions in the country. After seeing the new facility, we believe that your nursing students have a tremendous environment in which to learn on some of the best technology available today. The University of Alabama and its students should be proud of the new facility and the opportunity it provides to train the next generation of nurses. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your program.”

Beau Whitson, Stryker Account Manager
NEWS AND EVENTS

DEDICATION OF THE NEW CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING BUILDING

The Dedication Ceremony for the Capstone College of Nursing was held September 10, 2010. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, family, and friends gathered on the lawn to celebrate.

President Witt, Provost Bonner, Dean Barger, Senator Poole, Gail Windham, Jim and Elmore Inscoe, Hank Elmore, Dr. Felecia Wood and Amber-Leigh Rush cut the ribbon in front of the beautiful Greek Revival building that is the new home of the College of Nursing at the University of Alabama.

Above: Invitation to the Dedication of CCN

Above: Dean Barger welcomes guests

Above Left: The ribbon is displayed in front of the new CCN Building

Bottom Left: Pictured from left: Amber-Leigh Rush, Jim Inscoe (background), Elmore Inscoe, Hank Elmore, Dr. Felecia Wood, Provost Bonner, President Witt, Gail Windham, Dean Barger, and Senator Phil Poole
Top Left: View of the ceremony tent
Top Right: President Witt gives the opening remarks
Middle Left: The Faculty Brass Quintet performs
Middle Right: The UA Army ROTC presents the colors
Bottom Right: Pictured from left is Dr. Melondie Carter, Dr. Norma Cuellar, and Dr. Ruby Morrison
Bottom Left: Board of Visitors Chair Gail Windham speaks
Top Left: Pictured from left is Dr. Felecia Wood, Dr. Norma Cuellar, Dr. Roy Ann Sherrod, and Dr. Donna Packa

Top Right: Dr. Felecia Wood speaks on behalf of the CCN Faculty

Middle Left: Senator Phil Poole addresses the crowd

Middle Right: Students gather before the ceremony

Bottom Right: Gail Windham, Provost Bonner, President Witt, and Sen. Phil Poole

Bottom Left: CCN Ambassador greets guests before the ceremony
NEWS AND EVENTS

Top Left: Dr. Robert Bentley speaks

Top Right: Program Assistant Lisa Tyner and Director of Advancement Shelley Jordan

Middle Left: Dean Barger and Director of Technology Dr. Michelle McKay

Middle Right: Student Amber-Leigh Rush speaks on behalf of CCN students

Above: Nell Bethany stands in front of the Joe and Nell Bethany Conference Room

Bottom Left: Pictured from left: Jim Inscoe, Elmore Inscoe, and Hank Elmore after the ribbon cutting
Dara Warren is cautious and thoughtful when reflecting upon the circumstances under which she earned her master’s and doctoral degrees from UA. When the twice-deployed Air Force Captain walked across the stage at UA’s Commencement August 7, she completed an almost seven-year personal mission that took her to Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan, Germany and back home.

Completing coursework for a master of science in nursing and a doctorate in nursing practice has its own challenges, and combining those with the requirements of a military nurse in an intensive care unit certainly doesn’t make it any easier. Yet Warren took a decidedly practical approach to her studies.

“Being overseas didn’t really make my [coursework] any more difficult,” said Warren. “Without the little distractions during deployment, you pretty much go to work, do your coursework and work out.”

Her journey to nursing and military service began when she was a middle schooler fixated on caring for babies as a nurse. Following home schooling, Warren earned her first degree in nursing and got her first exposure to nursing in a neonatal intensive care unit. After graduating from UA with a bachelor of science in nursing, she explored her options. “I love to travel and had prior-service friends who encouraged me to look at military nursing,” Warren recalls. “I liked the opportunities the military offered, both career and education, and commissioned as a First Lieutenant in 2003. My initial commitment was four years, and I’ve been in almost seven years now.”

Warren views her military service in both Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as life-altering “in every way” and says it exposed her to leadership and management opportunities usually unavailable to civilian nurses. In fact, many of her clinical requirements for both of her graduate degrees were already a part of the job. But Warren sees her service as more than a learning experience.

“I’ve been deployed twice and been given the opportunity to take care of our nation’s heroes first-hand, but I also feel that when at my home station [in Japan and Germany] taking care of neonates, I’m still indirectly supporting those who protect our freedom by taking care of their most vulnerable family member.”

Warren also received a fair share of support. She credits her seeking a doctoral degree and graduation to Drs. Linda Dunn and Marietta Stanton, both UA nursing professors, who allowed her a flexible schedule for completing her coursework during deployment. Warren also received mentoring from Stanton, herself a former service member. Going forward, Warren plans to work with Stanton on research involving nurse veterans and to encourage her fellow nurses to continue their education.

“One of my favorite things to do is to encourage my fellow nurses and technicians in furthering their education. I feel like completing my degrees in the manner that I have gives me a lot of credibility with my peers. If I can do it, anyone can.”

That same humility comes forth when Warren contemplates the gravity of completing post-secondary education far removed from a college campus.

“This is part of life,” she says. “I don’t think my circumstances are really that remarkable.”
Dara was presented the Sara E. Barger Outstanding Graduate Student Award. This is the most prestigious award given to a graduate student. The faculty selects one graduate student who possesses the qualities of an outstanding advanced practice nurse.
Nursing Students’ Summer Trip to Japan

Nursing students Jaime Burgio, Ashley Burnham, and Katherine Whitley traveled to Japan for a study abroad trip this summer along with Dr. JoAnn Oliver and her son, Justin Oliver. The trip lasted from July 27, 2010 through August 5, 2010 and was coordinated by the University’s Capstone International Study Abroad Program in collaboration with Chiba University located in Chiba, Japan.

Through this program the students attended health care focused lectures, visited several health care facilities, and had several opportunities to experience and learn about Japanese culture. As part of their weekend trip they also visited Tokyo, Japan and Tokyo Disneyland.

“I am so appreciative of the opportunity to have the experience I did while on the trip to Japan. The lectures at Chiba University and time spent at the different health care facilities while in Japan gave me perspective on how different health care is among countries as well as how universal it can be. I can now attend classes here at UA and compare what I am learning here to what I was exposed to there. The memories from time spent with the students and faculty are life-long. This was truly an amazing experience.”

Katherine Whitley
“The transcultural health care study abroad program to Japan was one of the best experiences of my life. I would encourage every nursing student to consider signing up to go on the trip to learn the differences between nursing care and medicine. Some of the ways their students learn different subjects are amazing. Patho is a two part class with theory and lab, but lab includes getting to see organs with the progression diseases so you can see why the patient’s body reacts the way it does. This experience opened my eyes to the different worlds of nursing, but also to how similar they can be.”

Ashley Burnham
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Internship 2010
Forty students participated in the summer internship at three clinical partnership sites for the summer of 2010. The internship sites were at DCH, Baptist Princeton, and Trinity. The 8 week summer experience was highlighted by many patient stories. Each of them was so grateful for the opportunity to learn from their patients and a caring staff. At the end of the experience the students wrote a story to illustrate their lessons learned. Here is an example of the lessons that mattered:

**Seeing Through the Patient’s Eyes**
My recent encounter with a patient opened my eyes and provided me with a very humbling experience. I received a report on a patient who was a 44 year old female who suffered a fall and was diagnosed with a C-2 fracture. Due to her condition her head and neck were immobilized and she was forced to look up at the empty ceiling for the better part of each day. She received a generous amount of pain medication due to the pain the fracture had caused her; therefore, she was sleeping a great deal. Numerous family members came by to see her; however, she was mostly sleeping and the family realized she was much more comfortable when she was able to rest so they would simply leave a card with words of encouragement or pictures of her grandchildren. I walked in her room to assess her one afternoon and noticed her crying. When I asked what was wrong she stated that she felt so lonely and could not read or see any of the pictures left for her. This fact had not crossed my mind until this point. I proceeded to read each of her cards and letters left for her and hold up pictures of her grandchildren. It seemed almost immediate that her mood changed as the tears ceased and an enormous smile covered her face. It was at this moment I realized the importance of keeping intact family support as well as providing stimulation when patients are unable to provide for themselves.

*Spencer Handley*
New Cohort 4 Students

The Nurse Educator program here at the Capstone College of Nursing has admitted a new cohort of students. With this new Cohort 4, the programs will have reached a little over 75 students in making it one of the largest doctoral programs on campus. The Instructional Leadership degree for Nurse Educators is designed to prepare practicing nurses for careers in higher education. The course of study helps develop the teaching and research skills necessary for effective faculty in university and college nursing programs. Through this collaborative effort, the Capstone College of Nursing and the College of Education seek to strengthen the future education of nurses and contribute to the improved quality of health care received by residents of Alabama and the Southeast region.

Student Spotlight

Michael Greco, DNP, MSN, BSN, CRNA was featured in the Graduate School’s Student Spotlight July 2010 edition. He graduated from The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing on August 7, 2010. Residing in New York City, he was able to study and earn his Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) through the eLearning program offered by the university. He is presently practicing as the Chief Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) in a Brooklyn based trauma center as well as holding the rank of Major in the United States Army Reserves. Dr. Greco plans to increase his involvement in the area of health policy and politics, impacting professional nurse practice. Recently, he has patented an airway device used in the operating room to secure an open airway while patients are under general anesthesia. In his little free time, he enjoys performing as an actor in his local community theater as he holds a degree in acting from Niagara University. Dr. Greco has been seen on TLC’s Trauma Life in the ER and has done voice over as well as extra roles for TV and radio.

Other Student Achievements

Mary Smith, a DNP student, had her paper entitled “Making A Difference: DNP Can Pave the Way” from NUR 731 last fall published as “The Back Page” in the May issue of ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners.

Susan Rogers, a MSN student, was selected as Case Manager of the Year by the Case Management Society of America.
InvesT In Lives.

Create your legacy.

Imagine that you made a difference in someone’s life. That with your help, a student achieved a dream. A dream of becoming a doctor.

How can you make this happen? Establish a donor-advised fund at The University of Alabama. You recommend grants to support public charities dear to your heart. Like those active in the arts, education, health care and human services. The fund is similar to a charitable foundation, minus the administrative burdens. You receive an immediate tax deduction and investment alternatives that provide choices on how your fund can grow.

To learn how a donor-advised fund at The University of Alabama can fulfill your ongoing commitment to philanthropy, call 888-875-4438 or visit us online at http://daf.ua.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA The Donor-Advised Fund
Help develop the next generation of caring nurses

The Capstone College of Nursing has long been a major provider of a quality nursing education. Our success can be attributed largely to our alumni and friends who have provided generous gifts through their will, trust or other estate plans.

Giving back to UA strengthens our influence.

The Capstone College of Nursing has long been a major provider of a quality nursing education. Our success can be attributed largely to our alumni and friends who have provided generous gifts through their will, trust or other estate plans.

For more information about giving opportunities without obligation, contact Shelley Jordan at (205) 348-9876 or our planned giving staff at (888) 875-4438, or visit giving.ua.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
touching lives
DR. MARSHA ADAMS
was appointed to the Academic Nurse Education Certification Commission for Certified Nurse Educators.

DR. NORMA CUellar
was inducted into the Petal School District’s Academic Hall of Fame on May 27, 2010. The Academic Hall of Fame honors those graduates who have exhibited outstanding academic and professional achievements.

CYNTHIA MORRIS
received the Advisor of the Week Award from the Avanti Coordinators Office of Orientation and Special Programs for the week of July 12, 2010.

DR. MELODIE CARTER and Dr. Susan Gaskins had the article “Incorporating Bioterrorism Content in the Nursing Curriculum: A Creative Approach” published in the Journal of Nursing Education, 49 (7), 406-409. She is currently serving on the Research Committee and was named to the Research Study Subcommittee for the National Health Enhancement Research Organization.

DR. SUSAN GASKINS
had the article “Concerns of Special Populations: Rural Communities” published in ANAC’s Core Curriculum for HIV/AIDS Nursing (265-268). Thousand Oaks: Sage. She and Dr. Pamela Payne Foster also had the article “Management of AIDS Related Stigma by Older African Americans Living with HIV/AIDS” published in AIDS CARE, 21 (10), 1306-1312.

DR. MARILYN HANDLEY
was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of Section 8 for the Association for Women’s Health, Obstetrical and Neonatal Nurse. She will serve a two year term beginning in January 2011.
DNP STUDENTS NAME OFFICE IN NEW NURSING BUILDING
The DNP Class of 2010 pledged a gift of $20,000 this summer to name the Dr. Marietta Stanton Office of Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs in the new Capstone College of Nursing Building. The students surprised Dr. Stanton with the gift at her home during a pre-graduation reception.

Addison Marie Jarrell
July 22, 2010
5 LB. and 15 OZ.
Born to Brittney and Daniel Jarrell

Madelynn Ann Mauldin
August 15, 2010
5 LB. and 10 OZ.
Born to Matthew and Jessica Mauldin

Dr. Stanton with a plaque from the DNP Class.
The CCN Newsletter for alumni, friends, faculty and staff

TBA       UACCNAA BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11     COMMENCEMENT
JANUARY 12     CLASSES BEGIN
MARCH 14-18     SPRING BREAK
APRIL 8      HONORS DAY

to contribute to
college of nursing’s
scholarships,
programs, and
activities please email
Shelley Jordan at
sdjordan@bama.ua.edu
or call
(205) 348-9876.

The University of Alabama Nursing

Box 870358
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0358
http://nursing.ua.edu