A Message From The Dean

Giving back is a natural instinct for most nurses. The desires to help and to give are often motivators that lead us to this profession. Nonetheless, I frequently discover examples of this trait that astonish me. When the fall issue of the Capsule was in the planning stages, stories of giving kept surfacing, until Giving Back became an unintentional theme. I hope you enjoy reading the news about our college, faculty, staff and students, along with several amazing stories of how those in our profession are giving back. You will notice that they all are quick to share the rewards they reap from doing so.

According to Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get; but we make a life by what we give.” Nursing has provided a great life for me and many of my colleagues. As a nursing educator, I am tasked with passing knowledge and passion for my profession along to those who will take my place. Join me in helping the next generation of “givers”. I challenge you to give back to our future nurses by contributing to the Capstone College of Nursing.

For information about giving opportunities, contact Shelley Jordan at (205) 348-9876 or sdjordan@ua.edu.
In May of 2014, Dr. Ernesto Perez established an endowed scholarship for students enrolled in the Capstone College of Nursing’s RN Mobility Program.

Dr. Perez wants to help students who take a less traditional path to their nursing degree. He hopes to enhance the diversity of nursing students enrolled in the Capstone and make it easier for them to further their education and achieve their career goals.

My name is Ernesto C. Perez. I was born and raised in Communist Cuba, which prepared me for the uncounted and difficult challenges ahead. The decision to leave my family and all that was familiar wasn’t easy, but it certainly was the best choice I ever made. Both of my parents were supportive of my decision, especially my father who was my greatest mentor. He was not an educated man, but always instilled in me the value of knowledge and education. He often said: “Anyone can take your material possessions or you might lose them all, but your education and knowledge stays with you forever.” Escaping in the middle of the night and venturing into the unknown was very scary, but it was the beginning of the most amazing ride of my life. I feel blessed that I lived through it all and better yet, that I am able to write part of my story.

Lack of food, electricity, running water, or even a life of adversity are not the only motivators to succeed in the world. Most significant are a man’s intuition, honesty, courage, passion, and purpose.

I arrived in the US when I was 20 years old, as a political refugee. Since I was highly educated in Cuba, I endured several hours of grueling interviews by the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS). After a week, I was released to the care of my godparents in Florida. Six months later, I enrolled in the LPN program at Collier County Vo-Tech Center in Naples, Florida. I graduated with a PN certificate in 1982. While attending the LPN program, I worked as a nurse’s aide at a local hospital. Working at this institution, I was able to get a better understanding of the English language and some of the customs and idiosyncrasies of the American culture.

At this job, I first encountered statements such as “you will never be able to do that” or “maybe if you are lucky, we might allow you to work here when you become an LPN.” Statements like those and being told no, more often than I care to count, motivated me to work even harder. I am so thankful for those “opportunities” because they made me the person and the professional I am today.

While working full time as a PN and raising a family, I also attended Edison State College obtaining an ADN degree in 1984. I worked full-time as an RN on an orthopedics/rehab floor and in a pediatric unit. Once employed as a registered nurse at this facility, I applied for some entry-level management jobs and faced denial each time. Within a few months, I realized that in order for me to succeed in this profession it was essential to relocate to a more progressive area. Making this move really changed everything for me. I was the first male nurse who worked in the Bone Marrow
Transplant Unit (pediatric/adult), Surgical Intensive Care Unit, and Open Heart Unit (neonatal/pediatric/adult) at All Children’s Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida. The work was very technical, fast-paced, challenging, and rewarding. It was at this hospital that my work ethic, passion for nursing, interactions with staff, patients, and families were finally appreciated and valued to the fullest extent. Here, I had a rebirth and acquired an insatiable hunger for knowledge, excellence, and higher education. I became SICU’s clinical educator and for the first time since leaving Cuba, I felt totally alive. I taught and trained new nurses, both clinically and in the classroom. I constantly read books and research articles pertaining to critical care of adult and pediatric patients. Here, I was first identified as an educator. My job was motivational, exciting, and it brought me much satisfaction. I was awarded nurse of the month, nurse of the quarter, and was a finalist for the nurse of the year award. I obtained several certifications in my specialty during that time, but I still wanted more.

While very comfortable and fulfilled in my job, something still seemed to be lacking. After attending three years of medical school in Cuba, I was unable to finish because I left the country. Deep within, I always wanted to get a doctoral degree so I made the decision to further my education. I started researching different fields of study: physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and nurse anesthetist. Nurse anesthesia was very appealing because as an advanced practice nurse, it afforded a high degree of autonomy, critical thinking, and independence. In 1990, I moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where I completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. I also worked at Alton/Oschner Medical Foundation as the head nurse of Pediatrics and at Hotel Dieu Hospital as the PACU supervisor/Relief Hospital supervisor.

I was accepted to the Charity Hospital/Xavier University School of Nurse Anesthesia program in January of 1993. Six months into the program, I decided to become an educator. Because of the diversity of educators in the field, I closely observed those who I wanted to emulate and they became my inspiration and mentors. After graduation, I gained clinical experience at All Children's Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida and two medical centers in Macon, Georgia. In 1997, I returned to Charity Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia as a clinical staff anesthetist and adjunct faculty. In August of 2000, I relocated to Fort Myers, Florida to develop and initiate an anesthesia program at Florida Gulf Coast University. I became the Associate Program Director and later the Interim Program Director. During these times, I also worked as a clinical CRNA at different hospitals and outpatient facilities. From 2003 to 2005, I taught nurse anesthesia at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Up to this point, I had been enrolled in school at Walden University where I completed 29 credits of the PhD in Higher Education, but later decided that I needed a more focused clinical degree.
In 2009, I was accepted to the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing DNP program. I graduated in August 2011 receiving the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Soon after graduation, and in conjunction with other fellow graduates, I developed a DNP Mentoring Program for CCN. The program was successfully instituted in 2012. The same year, I became the recipient of the Department of Health and Human Services PHS grant/scholarship to receive post-doctoral education/certificate in Healthcare Informatics at Duke University School of Nursing. After program completion, I became an online part-time Assistant Professor at CCN. I reside in the Tampa Bay area of Florida where I work as an independent CRNA contractor.

In 2014, I was inducted as a Distinguished Scholar and Fellow into the National Academies of Practice in Alexandria, Virginia. The National Academies of Practice is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 to advise governmental bodies on the US healthcare system. Distinguished practitioners and scholars are elected by their peers from ten different health professions to join the only interprofessional group in healthcare to support affordable, accessible, and coordinated quality care for all.

Nurses, nursing educators, and advanced practitioners are at the forefront of the current healthcare market by providing high standard patient care, innovative education, affordable and safe care, and optimal patient outcomes. Evolving technology, complexity of medicine, colossal healthcare costs, and changes in reimbursement are providing nurses with new opportunities and challenges. To meet the healthcare needs of this century, nurses must take a leadership role by identifying, analyzing, applying, and evaluating knowledge from nursing and other healthcare disciplines. It is the nurses’ responsibility to integrate the science and research in nursing into the diverse clinical settings of today and tomorrow. Mentoring and collaboration are essential as the entire profession embarks on this monumental task. I am the product of true and honest mentoring. Many thanks to those who were and to those who still are the most astonishing inspirational mentors I ever encountered during my career path.

“No, is never a rejection; it is merely a new opportunity.” Ernesto C. Perez

“Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.” Steve Jobs
NUR 317/NUR 517 offers real-world, culturally diverse experiences in underdeveloped countries with limited health resources to nursing students.

NUR 317/NUR 517 is an independent study course offered to students through collaboration between The University of Alabama (UA) Study Abroad, Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) and e3Expeditions. The course was developed using a service learning philosophy to provide opportunities for faculty and students to participate in diverse global nursing education as well as integration into the global nursing community. This elective course provides nursing students the opportunity to explore the physical and spiritual health of individuals and communities around the world. Additionally, the course allows for exploration of the role of cultural beliefs and values in health seeking behaviors. Students travel to countries around the world to participate in an immersion learning program in which they live and provide healthcare in a culture different from their own.

Because nurses face the challenge of providing care to an increasingly diverse population, cultural awareness is important. The phrase “cultural competence” describes the behaviors that a health care professional uses to individualize clinical care to people whose circumstances are different than those of the professional (e.g. culture, gender, economic status, language, geographic home, and ethnicity). Culturally competent care is sensitive to issues related to culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, social class and economic situation. Research suggests that immersion programs in which students experience the daily lives of other people may increase their cultural competency.

NUR 317/NUR 517 was developed using teaching philosophies of both inter-professional practice collaboration and service learning. The term “service learning” is an educational process in which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs. Students are provided structured time for them to think, talk or write about their experiences. This course provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real life situations. Student reflections about their experiences indicate that this elective course enhanced knowledge by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into a community and helps to foster the development of a sense of social responsibility and caring for others. This independent, study abroad course has now been offered six times (2012 – 2014).

A Service-Learning Enhancement Grant ($1500) provided by the Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility at UA was used to purchase reusable medical bags and equipment (blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, otoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, etc.) for student use in clinic settings.

To learn more about NUR 317 & NUR 517 opportunities, contact Dr. Marilyn Handley, associate professor of nursing at mhandley@ua.edu.

“...My experience in Costa Rica exceeded every expectation that I had. I made so many new friends and so many awesome memories! I grew spiritually and as a person. I realized that there are many people in the world that do not have the luxuries that we have in the States. I am so thankful for having the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica to serve God and help these people.

...My life has been forever touched by Costa Rica and the people there. I will always carry those memories close to my heart! I became more in-touch with my spirituality ...

...Spirituality is something that is defined uniquely to an individual. I realized that everyone has their own spirituality no matter the ethnicity. We as nurses have to take that spirituality into consideration when we take care of patients.”

Victoria Walters
Peru – Summer 2012
Faculty: Dr. Marilyn Handley & Dr. Alice March
Graduate Student: Jek Samson
Undergraduate Students:
Cara Nachtman
Carly Evans
Sara Sawyer
Cameron Nichols
Hannah Ballantyne
Holly Harmon
Sarah Creech
Drew Copeland
Rachel Shugart
Sarah Selleck
Maegen Lamb
Lauren Williams
Elaina Tirador

Asia – Spring 2013
Faculty: Dr. Marilyn Handley & Stephanie Ragland
Graduate Student: Sheyanne Chan
Undergraduate Students:
Calli Bradford
Jessica Crook
Karis Dison
Laura Jones
Lindsay Knight
Kelli Montgomery
Chelsea Rayman
Katherine Setterstrom
Madeline Torsch
Mollie Wallace

Bolivia – Summer 2013
Faculty: Dr. Regina Bentley, Sallie Shipman & Leigh Tubbs
Ashley Abernathy
Amanda Britton
Meagan Busby
Megan & Morgan Escue
Logan Gilman
Mallory Koch
Savannah Lee
Lauren Northcutt
Kaitlyn O’Brien
Margaret Rawls
Mary Virginia Sherrill
Heather Simmons
Raley Sittason
Elizabeth Sloan
Kelli Wender
Lesley Wildes
Koury Young
Costa Rica – Spring Break 2014
Faculty: Dr. Ann Graves & Dr. Marilyn Handley
Graduate Student: Sheyanne Chan
Undergraduate Students:
Carlee Camp
Katie Cox
Jessica Crook
Chelsi Davis
Karis Dison
Kinsley Fowler
Jenny France
Lindsay Ghiroli
Maela Lanier
Jessica Penunin
Katie Self
Paige Shelton
Victoria Walters

Asia – Spring 2014
Faculty: Stephanie Ragland & Jasmine Hoggle
Undergraduate Students:
Marie Eddins
Alyson Lee
Molly McCain
Emily Motes
Addie Nicholson
Joey Selleck
Emily Shealy
Lauren Wall
Taylor Wharton

Tanzania – Summer 2014
Faculty: Leigh Tubbs & Dr. Sara Kaylor
RN Mobility: April Jennings
Undergraduate Students:
Julie Anna Bonfield
Natalie Littleton
Ali Anderson
Emily Shurden
Lindsey Meyers
Alina Wilhelm
Katy Barhydt
Patrick Joswick
Morgan Todd
Hannah Hodges
Maggie Rumbly
Kaitlyn O’Brien
Capstone College of Nursing Dean, Suzanne S. Prevost, and graduate faculty member, Dr. Marietta P. Stanton, became Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) on October 18, 2014. They were inducted, along with alumnae and former CCN senior associate dean, Dr. Marsha Howell Adams, at the 2014 American Academy of Nursing Policy Conference in Washington, DC.

The American Academy of Nursing serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy’s more than 2,200 fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been chosen for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.

Fellows are among the nation’s most highly-educated citizens: more than 90% hold doctoral degrees. Invitation to the fellowship represents more than recognition of one’s accomplishments within the nursing profession. Academy fellows also have a responsibility to contribute their time and energies to the Academy and to engage with other health leaders outside the Academy in transforming America’s health system. Academy goals include enhancing the quality of health and nursing care, promoting healthy aging and human development across the life continuum, reducing health disparities and inequalities, shaping healthy behaviors and environments, integrating mental and physical health, and strengthening the nursing and health delivery system, nationally and internationally.

CCN’s new fellows met the Academy’s selection criteria with impressive academic records and proven service to the nursing profession. All have made significant contributions to the field of health.
care. Each of these new fellows will be eligible to use the credential Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, or FAAN.

Appointed Dean of the Capstone College of Nursing in August 2013, Dr. Suzanne S. Prevost has an outstanding background in clinical practice, teaching and administration. In previous academic posts, she served as Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing and National Healthcare Geriatrics Chair at Middle Tennessee State University. From 2011 to 2013, Dr. Prevost served as President of Sigma Theta Tau – the International Nursing Honor Society. Sigma Theta Tau has over 130,000 members in 86 countries. During her two years as president, Dr. Prevost gave presentations at nursing conferences on six different continents. From 2009 to 2012, she held a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship. She was also a Hartford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, from 2006-2008. In 2003, the city of Erie, Pennsylvania named her a Hero of Public Housing. Texas Woman's University honored her as one of its “Great 100 Alumni” in 2001. Dr. Prevost received her BSN at Villa Maria College in Pennsylvania, her MSN at Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston and her PhD at Texas Women's University in Houston. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Dr. Marietta P. Stanton is a Professor of Nursing at the Capstone College of Nursing. She is an Emeritus faculty from the University of New York at Buffalo School of Nursing. Dr. Stanton has published a number of articles in case management; patient and provider education; and nursing leadership. She has had federal funding for two research projects through the Tri-Service Nursing Research Grant Program and has been funded for advanced nursing education grants through the Bureau of Health Professions. Dr. Stanton received her PhD in Educational Administration/Instructional Communication from the University of Buffalo, her MS in Business through Salve Regina University, her MA in Nursing at New York University, and her BSN and AAS from Mount Saint Mary’s College. She recently completed a postmasters as an Adult Gerontological Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center in staff development and continuing education, nursing administration (advanced) and case management. She is certified through the Center for Case Management as a Case Management Administrator. She is also currently certified as a Certified Case Manager (CCM). Dr. Stanton has served our country as an Army Reservist and on active duty as the Senior Case Manager for Clinical Operations, Southeast Regional Medical Command during the War in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Marsha Howell Adams, after serving on the faculty of the Capstone College of Nursing for 31 years, accepted the position of Dean of University of Alabama in Huntsville College of Nursing in July 2014. Her most recent position at CCN was Senior Associate Dean of Academic Programs. She came to CCN as an instructor and clinical supervisor, taught both undergraduate and graduate classes, and served as the Director of Undergraduate Programs. Dr. Adams received her BSN, MSN and PhD from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also has a post-doctoral certification in rural nursing case management from CCN. Dr. Adams currently serves as President of the National League for Nursing (NLN), an organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education that offers faculty development programs, networking opportunities, testing and assessment, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 34,000 individual and 1,200 institutional members.
Caring and Sharing
The Good Samaritan Clinic’s Partnership with the Capstone College of Nursing
The Good Samaritan Clinic is an interdenominational Christian ministry that provides free primary health care, medication, health information and spiritual support to indigent people of all races, creeds and genders. Since opening in 1999, the clinic has served thousands of patients who have no other option for life sustaining, non-emergency medical care.

Good Sam, as it is sometimes called, serves those who reside in Tuscaloosa, Greene, Bibb, Hale, Pickens, Sumter and Fayette counties. Many of the patients seen are employed full or part time but do not receive insurance through their employer or are unable to afford it.

Both the Capstone College of Nursing and the Good Samaritan Clinic benefit from a shared partnership. Our multifaceted alliance includes CCN students, faculty and alumni.

As a CCN clinical partner for both traditional and RN Mobility community health students, the Good Samaritan Clinic offers our students an opportunity to hone their nursing skills. Perhaps more important, it allows them to put their servant hearts to good use.

Several of our faculty members give generously of their free time serving as volunteer nurses. We are also well-represented on the Clinic’s board of directors.

Letrell Lassiter Peoples started her nursing career in 1976 as a staff nurse at West Alabama General Hospital in Northport, Ala. In 1977, she joined The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center as a staff nurse on the medical care and intensive care unit. She worked there for 33 years and held a number of positions including Quality and Risk Management Coordinator, Director of Clinical Services in the Medical Care Service Line, and Affiliations and Patient Health Education Coordinator among others.

Dr. Peoples received her Diploma in Nursing from DCH School of Nursing in 1976, a BSN from Capstone College of Nursing in 1990, a MSN from UAB School of Nursing in 1997, and most recently her DNP from the Capstone.

After retiring in 2010, she joined the Good Samaritan Clinic as a volunteer staff nurse. She served in this capacity for three years before assuming the role of Director of Clinical Services which she currently holds.

Letrell always planned to volunteer upon retirement. She found her calling 10 years ago when a relative of hers received care from the Good Samaritan Clinic. Impressed with the treatment he received, she began volunteering at Good Sam and says, “the experience offers unspeakable rewards.”

In addition to volunteering during retirement, Letrell completed her personal goal of obtaining a doctoral degree in nursing in 2013. In her scholarly project, “Identifying Factors to Improve the Participation of Diabetics in Self-management Education”, Letrelle identified ways to assist patients with diabetes in attending self-care management classes at the DCH Diabetes Education Center where she completed her study. Because of her relationship with the DCH Diabetes Education Center Coordinator, she has referred a number of patients from Good Samaritan to the Center. Upon completing all scheduled classes, these patients have experienced improved outcomes such as better controlled blood sugars and decreased hospital admissions related to their diabetes. Letrell is proud to know that her DNP studies are making a difference not only in the patients served by Good Samaritan but also for other patients with diabetes in the greater community.
I chose to spend this summer abroad shadowing doctors and nurses in the Bnei Zion (Rothschild) Medical Center in Haifa, Israel. I visited Israel through a program called Birthright, where 18-26 year old Jewish men and women can travel there for a 10-day, all-inclusive trip. Beginning at the most Northern point of Israel, we traveled to the most Southern point. In Jerusalem, we were able to bring in the Sabbath at the Western Wall. We spent a few nights in the Negev Desert, sleeping in Bedouin tents and riding camels. We traveled to the Judaean Desert, waking up early to climb Masada, an ancient fortification in the South where we watched the sunrise. Next we floated in the salty Dead Sea. We visited Tel Aviv and many other biblical and historical landmarks where we learned about the history of Israel, the conflict in the Middle East, and the background of our religious heritage. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget.

Once accepted on Birthright, I discovered an option to extend my stay and shadow in an Israeli hospital to see how their socialized medical system differed from the nationalized medical system we have in America. During my first week, I shadowed in labor and delivery where I found myself in a room with three women giving birth, screaming in a language I did not speak, separated by thin curtains, and aided by a midwife. I was shocked that neither doctors or nurses assisted in delivery unless there were complications. That week, I saw over 15 babies delivered. In the following weeks, I shadowed in afterbirth care and lactation consulting, in gynecology, in the newborn nursery, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I also spent time with an ENT doctor who specialized in cochlear implant surgeries, and shadowed nurses in the emergency room.

My trip was cut short due to the fighting in the Middle East. The last few weeks in Israel, sirens sounded daily warning that a rocket had been launched. We hid in closets in the hospital, waiting for the Iron Dome to intercept it so that we could come out of hiding. At first, I did not understand the saying, “well, let’s get on with our day” but that’s what everyone did. It was strange for me to go through this experience which is commonplace for the Israelis. Afterwards, I felt a strong appreciation for my country and the safety we feel in America.

My trip to Israel opened my eyes and made me appreciate my chosen career after seeing the impact nurses make in a patient’s life. I will carry what I learned with me throughout my career as a nurse. I think it is very important for current and future nurses to be able to see how other medical systems operate. My experience abroad expanded my horizons and gave me appreciation for nurses and medical staff all over the world.
Since entering Upper Division nursing courses over the summer, the question I am asked the most is, “What kind of nurse would you like to be once you graduate?” Now I wish I had my life that figured out, but the reality is that the answer changes depending on the week. I’ve really made it a focus of mine to learn as much as I can about all different fields of nursing. When an opportunity was presented to me to assist with community health research being conducted by Dr. Paige Johnson and Dr. Michele Montgomery, my heart told me to seize this opportunity to experience an aspect of nursing that was relatively new to me. As a first generation college student, I had very little knowledge of undergraduate research and its ability to better our society. This opportunity has broadened my understanding of the scope of nursing and I feel very fortunate to experience this as an undergrad. I figured that as a junior, I’d be limited making an impact. I never imagined this early in my career that I’d be a part of helping the community’s children make healthier habits that will influence their health for years to come. It has been truly inspiring to see the passion Dr. Johnson and Dr. Montgomery have in making a positive change in the lives of these children. I feel extremely blessed to be given the chance to work so closely with faculty as I learn more about nursing each day. I am thankful for this opportunity to gain a better understanding of the impact one nurse can have through community health and am excited to see what the rest of the year holds.

Melissa Clark

As a second semester nursing student interested in eventually pursuing a doctoral degree and becoming a Nursing Educator, I wanted to participate in this undergraduate research program because I felt that it would allow me to acquire a better perspective on the research process. After receiving the email from Dr. Johnson asking for assistance with her and Dr. Montgomery, I was pleased to think that they saw potential in me to help them complete research and thrilled because I felt it would be a great learning experience. Undergraduate research for me is an opportunity to “test the waters” in an area of nursing that I might not otherwise experience until I further my education and earn my doctorate. Because of my involvement with Dr. Johnson, Dr. Montgomery and their research, I have learned how imperative community health truly is. Communities readily need information advising them how to improve their health and avoid health risks such as hypertension and diabetes. The research has expanded my thought process and I now often find myself in conversation with others about how to better hygiene, dietary habits, and overall health. Both health and exercise are vital and the data I have entered proves how important. If individuals do not exercise, maintain a healthy diet, and pay attention to their bodies, serious conditions and risks will occur. Communities need individuals who will educate them on how to be healthy!

Colleen Anusiewicz
The medical mission in June 2014 to Mbeya, Tanzania, located in East Africa, was enriching from both a cultural perspective as well as a spiritual one. My preparation for the trip was not easy. I spent months raising funds to cover the expense, which included sending out contribution letters, speaking at a church about my mission to Africa, and following up with personal letters of gratitude to contributors. Just as important, I took time to prepare myself physically and spiritually for the journey ahead. Facing the unknown in a different country, traveling four days round-trip, leaving family behind, and working ahead to complete assignments during my last semester of the RN-Mobility program seemed daunting, but I made it and the journey truly changed my life perspective. All the sacrifice and work it took to be a part of this was worth it. I look back at the experience with no regrets.

Having the opportunity to work with faculty and traditional nursing students from UA and E3 Medical was an honor. As an RN-Mobility student, I left the U.S. not personally knowing anyone on the trip. Once there, I was able to connect with the rest of my team, and others involved in the medical mission. Our team was 70 people strong. We each had translators and could not have done our jobs without them. My translator, who never left my side at the clinics, offered great insight into the culture of Mbeya, Tanzania.

A unique part of this experience was the opportunity to work as part of an interdisciplinary team, which included nursing, pharmacy, and optometry. My most memorable moment in Tanzania occurred during my rotation through optometry. The second patient I saw that day was an elderly woman in tears over her dependence on others to read for her. Being severely farsighted, she had not been able to read her bible for several years. After an exam, I was able to provide her with glasses to correct her sight. To test her vision, she read scripture from the bible I had offered her. The sound of her voice while reading, and the excited expression on her face, confirmed her ability to see clearly and read again! Her tears of sorrow turned to tears of joy. I will forever cherish this moment.

The rest of my days were spent working in the health clinic, where we saw on average 400 people a day. Most of the chronic diseases seen in Tanzania are the same as those we see in the states. However, what we have the capability of doing for these patients is starkly different from care we provide in the U.S. For example, I had a patient with hyperglycemia and a reading so elevated it would not register on the glucometer. My only option was to treat her with Metformin, the only medication available for diabetes in our clinic pharmacy. The rest of her care focused on education about lifestyle changes and dietary measures to control her blood glucose. Follow up care was not an option because of limited resources. The toughest part of the medical mission was knowing the only health care that people would receive was limited to what we could provide in our clinics over the week. Other diseases we encountered in the community were hypertension, malaria, intestinal parasites, fungal skin infections, eye infections, and musculoskeletal deformities - many caused from untreated injuries and vitamin deficiencies. Every patient who came through the clinic received health education on hygiene, nutrition, and hydration. Multivitamins were distributed to everyone, and all children received medication for intestinal parasites.

After receiving healthcare services, every patient received spiritual counseling and prayer. Through the spiritual counseling, we offered at our clinics, and through other mission points in Mbeya, Tanzania, thousands came to know Christ and accepted Christianity as their new faith. Being able to care for and educate people about their health and about Christianity is what makes working with a mission team even more of a unique experience. I really had to step out of my comfort zone when it came to sharing my faith, knowing in the beginning, that many did not share my beliefs. I have it ingrained in me, as a nurse, that this is not something we do with our patients, unless the patient and nurse share the same beliefs.

Will I ever take part in a medical mission again? Yes! Moreover, I encourage other RN-Mobility students to do the same. It was truly a rewarding experience to be part of the medical mission and to have served with such a supportive team from CCN and E3 Medical.
The Capstone College of Nursing is pleased to announce the graduation of our inaugural cohort in the Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations. Six students were admitted to the first cohort in August 2012 and on August 2, 2014 all six students completed their studies and earned a MSN degree. These students are now eligible to sit for the national certification exam as both a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP).

The NP concentration prepares students with specialty knowledge in primary and mental health care. Special emphasis is placed on learning how to care for rural patients, veterans, and family members of veterans.

NP students learn to work together as an interprofessional team along with students from Medicine, Social Work, and Nutrition. These teams address multiple chronic conditions in rural communities. Communication is facilitated through the use of telemedicine and other state of the art technology.

The Capstone College of Nursing congratulates this inaugural class of Nurse Practitioner students and is excited about their future impact on the health of our rural communities.

The first graduating class in the Capstone College of Nursing’s NP Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations with program coordinator Dr. Leigh Ann Chandler Poole.

Elizabeth Haley (CCN Semester II student), under the direction of Dr. John Kim, was selected to present a poster at the 2014 Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX on October 22-25. Her poster is titled “Combined Role of Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor and pH on Glioblastoma Stem Cell Expansion.” Congratulations on this exciting opportunity and achievement in undergraduate research!

John Lundeen, MSN, RN, CNE was installed a governor-at-large at the National League for Nursing’s annual Business Meeting in September 2014. John is as an assistant professor and graduate nursing simulation coordinator at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. He has served the NLN in several other capacities including chair of the CNE Test Development Committee; on the CNE Board of Commissioners; and as a coordinator of a CNE test item-writing group. He’s also been quite active in the Alabama League for Nursing, chairing the constituent league’s Poster Committee for several years.

In addition to his educational and nursing leadership duties, John is enrolled in our EdD in Instructional Leadership for Nurse Educators program, a Doctorate in Education offered jointly by the UA College of Education and the Capstone College of Nursing. Congratulations to this outstanding Capstone College of Nursing student!
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First Graduating Class: NP Concentration

The first graduating class in the Capstone College of Nursing’s NP Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations with program coordinator Dr. Leigh Ann Chandler Poole.

Ginger Lowman, MSN  Cara Lutzow, MSN  Shawn Howard, MSN

Johnny Tice, MSN  Daphne Cockrell, MSN  Latashia Davison, MSN

The University of Alabama  19
Congratulations August 2014 Graduates!

Capstone College of Nursing
Congratulations
August 2014 Graduates!

The University of Alabama
Scholarship and Endowment Contributors

The following friends have established or contributed to scholarship or endowed funds in the Capstone College of Nursing between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.

$100,000 and over
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Giambalvo
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

$10,001 to $50,000
Mrs. Anne E. Allen
The Caring Foundation
Giambalvo Family Foundation

$5,001 to $10,000
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Dr. Elizabeth and Mr. Jason LaClair
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CCN Alumni Association Donors

The following alumni and friends contributed to the Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.

Thank you 23

The University of Alabama
Dear Fellow Alums:

Let’s go VIRAL…

Most of us understand how viruses work, right? Here’s a quick and easy way to understand how a virus works. You don’t have to worry, I’m not going to give a complicated lesson on host cells, DNA or RNA. Simply stated, a virus has the ability to replicate itself.

For some time, I have served on the UACCNAA board. During this time on the board, I have seen our financial standing change from having zero dollars in our account to having the ability to endow a nursing scholarship. Now we have two alumni scholarships. Yes, it has taken time. My point is, the generous men and women on our board have “given back” by devoting their time, energy, and money to help our association become visible and viable. Our vision is to see what we do today impact nursing, our community, our students, and our healthcare system generation after generation.

Although we have endowed two nursing scholarships, we are not stopping there. Our goal is to endow a scholarship for each nursing degree program at The University of Alabama. Currently, we have two need-based scholarships: one is for an upper division student and the second is for an RN mobility student.

Here’s how you can give back, help us expand our reach and accomplish our vision. Join our CCN Alumni Association. If you’re already a member, Thank You! A portion of your annual donation helps support scholarship funding. Members receive a free copy of the Capsule. The Capsule is a biannual magazine published by the CCN Alumni Association that informs you of current and future events at the College. Get involved. Join us at homecoming. Every year, the UACCNAA hosts a BBQ on the lawn at the College of Nursing. Members eat free. Additional guests can purchase a BBQ plate for $12.00. We would love for you to be a part of this great event on November 22 at the College.

I came across a quote recently that resonated with me: “Make what change you are able to make now, and let the ‘giving spirit’ spread like a virus, infinitely touching the lives of people you may never meet, across boundaries you may never cross, in ways you may never imagine. That is the power of giving and your ticket to changing the world.” Matt Hogan

I hope to see you at homecoming. As always, Roll Tide!

Philip Fikes, CRNA, MNA
President UACCNAA
I was born in Tuscaloosa and have lived here all my life. Raised a block from Bryant-Denny Stadium, The University of Alabama has been a big part of my life. My family has followed Alabama football since I was a child so it is only natural that I love the Tide.

I am married to Jim LaBresh and have a son and a daughter. My son, Rick Poe, and precious daughter-in-law, Nikki, live in a house divided. He is an Auburn fan and Nikki is an Alabama fan. Last year’s football season was definitely interesting for our family. My daughter, Mary Kathryn Poe, is a sophomore at The University of Alabama and a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

I am a 1987 graduate of the Capstone College of Nursing, a 2001 graduate of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at UAB, and have worked at DCH Regional Medical Center since I graduated from the Capstone. I love Nurse Anesthesia and highly recommend it as a career choice for any nurse who desires pursuing an advanced degree. This career path allows CRNAs to practice in a variety of settings, in collaboration with anesthesiologists, as well as, independently if desired. Nurse Anesthesia is part science and part art. It is very satisfying to have that one-on-one contact with patients while providing comfort, alleviating pain and anxiety. Nurse Anesthesia is challenging and at the same time very rewarding.

Working with the UACCN Alumni Association Board is such a great experience. Together, this Board has participated in numerous community projects while supporting the profession of nursing. I strongly encourage all alums and upcoming graduates to join our alumni organization and become actively involved. Encourage your colleagues to do the same. You’ll find it so rewarding!

“...become a part of this worthwhile group of folks in UACCNAAA who love CCN and the nursing profession.”

Donna LaBresh
Member of our Alumni Association Board of Directors
Alumni News

Class of 1981
Karen Elizabeth Hill Taylor’s daughter, Lauren Taylor Bodenhamer, will graduate in December 2014 from The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing with a DNP! (Karen graduated from CCN 33 years ago!) Karen says “Lauren has continued her education while juggling a full time job in an Urgent Care Facility and raising a 2 year old and a 7 month old! She and her husband live in Gulf Shores. Of course, I am a proud mom!”

Class of 1986
Leigh Ann Payne Hixon is married to John Hixon, Jr. and has a daughter, Mary Grace. She works at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Class of 1990
Karen Lee Vaughn McCurnin received a Master’s degree in nurse anesthesia from UAB in 2002. She has worked at Northport Medical Center for 12 years as a CRNA.

Class of 1991
Edith Oldshue Jacobs shares, “On December 3, 2013 our daughter Elyssa passed away. She was 21 - heart transplant at the age of 15 months and a bone marrow transplant recipient in 2012. My husband Jeff and I have just relocated to Orange Beach, Ala. We’re thrilled to be back in Bama after 17 years in Texas.”

Class of 2005
Jessica Lee Gillilan Edmondson joined the Children’s of Alabama Neuro-Oncology division as an NP on August 11.

Class of 2006
Amanda Michelle Heath Ramsburg. On May 12, 2014 at 8:32 p.m., Amanda and her husband welcomed their first child, Violet Elizabeth. She weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21 inches long. On July 1, 2014, Amanda was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the United States Public Health Service.

Class of 2008
Wendy Liana Batchelor Castillo graduated with an MSN-FNP in May 2014.

Derenda Ann Farmer Lovelace graduated with a Masters in Nursing Case Management. In 2009, she left the Primary Care Clinic at Fort Lee, Va. after serving as a Medical Management Nurse Consultant for 15 1/2 years. She became an OEF/OIF Nurse Case Manager at the VAMC in Richmond, Va., then the Defense Health Agency’s Case Management Nurse Consultant in northern Virginia. She returned to the VAMC in March 2014 where she works as a Transitional Care Nurse in the Home Based Primary Care Program. In 2010, Derenda received the Case Management Society of America (CMSA) Award of Service Excellence and 20 year Federal Service Pin in 2013. She has recently been blessed with 2 grandchildren and looks forward to spending more time with them.

Class of 2009
Johnny Tice, a member of the 2014 inaugural cohort of CCN’s Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations, was one of only four awarded a post-graduate ambulatory care fellowship to the Center for Advanced Practice at Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte, N.C.

Class of 2010
Dr. Michael Greco (DNP class of 2010) became the Associate Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Columbia University in New York City as of July 1, 2014.

Emma Caroline Weatherly is in her second year of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) School at Texas Christian University (TCU) and will graduate with her DNP-A in 2016. She says, “Thanks to the Capstone for preparing me for this jump in my career. I will be forever grateful for the foundation CCN gave me as a means for future success. Roll Tide!”

Ashley Danielle Burnham York graduated in April of this year from UAB with a Masters in Nursing as a Nurse Practitioner. Her certifications are Adult/Gerontology primary care nurse practitioner and Women’s Health nurse practitioner. Ashley is currently working as a Hospitalist NP starting up a new program in Jackson, Tenn. She is also pursuing a DNP at Union University.

Class of 2011
Elise Johnson Barton has been at Duke University in Durham, N.C. in the Cardiac Care Unit for 1 year. Elise says, “I also work with Virginia Belk McNeil and Marie Sarris, two other Capstone Grads! I love working at Duke and I have learned so much. It’s a great place to be and it’s also so fun working with people from Sweet Home Alabama!”

Jennifer Wainright has moved to Nashville, Tenn.
The Pediatric ER at Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, Ala. is well-staffed with UA nurses, three recent UA alums as well as a senior precepting student. Alicia Wright sent in this photo of (l-r) Alicia (BSN - May 2010 and MSN - May 2014), Leah Marsh (BSN - May 2013 and current MSN student), Maura Owens (senior precepting student graduating in December 2014), and Tyler Fadorsen (BSN - May 2014).

Dr. Jessica Peck, professor of nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing, received a number of awards recently including the Outstanding Nurse 2014 from the Houston Chronicle Salute to Nurses Top 100 Nurses, the Pamela G. Watson School of Nursing Faculty Award from UTMB SON, the Love of Learning Award from Phi Kappa Phi National in 2013, and in April 2014 she was inducted into the Academy of Master Teachers at UTMB. She also published the following: Peck, J. (2014). Social media in nursing education: Responsible integration for meaningful use. Journal of Nursing Education 53(3), 164-169; Peck, J., Stanton, M., and Reynolds, George E.S. (Jan, 2014). Smart phone preventive health care. J. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 28(1), 35-42; and Peck, J. (2013). Addressing the Health Care Crisis in Texas: Effective Use of APRNs. The Journal for Nurse Practitioners, 9(2), 116-121. dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2012.12.006.

Carolyn Faye Dempsey Thompson married Adam Thompson on September 27, 2014 at Orange Beach, Alabama, alongside friends and family and his son Wyatt Thompson.

Victor Delgado was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor at Florida International University in August 2014.

Margaret Elisabeth Factor is working at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama in the Birth Suites as a labor and delivery nurse.

Dr. Wade Forehand, a graduate of the Capstone College of Nursing DNP program, is pursuing a PhD in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Instructional Technology at the University of Alabama. He began the program in the fall of 2014.

Edgar Rene Garcia graduated the DNP program at the University of Alabama and at the same time was promoted to assistant professor and awarded tenure at Benjamin Leon School of Nursing at Miami Dade College.

Sharon Adelle Tipton Gothard graduated with her MSN last May and is an Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. She loves her new job and learns something new each day.

Kathryn Elizabeth Merritt has been working for 6 months at Novant Health Matthews Medical Center in the Emergency Room. She loves her first job in the ER.

Elaina Tirador now works for the serious communicable disease unit at Emory University Hospital. She was part of the crew who took care of the first EBOLA patients in the United States.

Caroline Faye Dempsey Thompson married Adam Thompson on September 27, 2014 at Orange Beach, Alabama, alongside friends and family and his son Wyatt Thompson.

Class of 2014

Destynni Rickelle Burrell works in the Surgical/Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at the Birmingham VA Medical Center as a full-time Registered Nurse. Destynni says, “This is truly a dream come true. When I began my educational journey at UA, I worked at DCH Regional Medical Center as a Registered Nurse-ICU float. Since I started my new job, I am able to give back to our veterans every day. It truly brings joy to my heart to be able to help those who have helped all of us.”

John Christopher Davis works for UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. On November 15, 2014, he and his colleagues will be moving into their new hospital, William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, a state of the art facility dedicated to patient-centered care.

Ashley Shea Abernathy Stella got married in June 2014 and finished the new grad internship at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She is now an RN II on E3 (Stoke unit). Roll Tide!
Dr. Norma Cuellar received the Lillian Holland Harvey Award from the Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA). The award was presented during the ASNA state convention in Tuscaloosa, Ala. on October 2, 2014.

Dr. Susan Gaskins received the Cindajo Overton Outstanding Nurse Educator in an Academic Setting Award from the ASNA during their state convention in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Dr. Alice March was named a Fellow of the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program for 2014-15. Dr. March was one of four UA faculty members selected to participate in a professional development program that seeks to identify, prepare and advance academic leaders for roles within SEC institutions and beyond.

Dr. Graham McDougall, Jr. was appointed Chair Elect of The University of Alabama Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The mission of the RAC is to increase the quantity and quality of research at UA enhancing the research enterprise on campus.

Dean Suzanne Prevost received the Outstanding Nursing Administrator Award of Academia from the Alabama State Nurses Association. The award was presented during the ASNA state convention.

Dr. JoAnn Oliver was selected for the 2014-2015 Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (ENFLA). This development program is designed for experienced faculty. Scholars are chosen through a competitive selection process to increase their leadership acumen and increase the skill sets essential to success in a faculty leadership role.

Dr. Theresa Wadas Majors was appointed to represent advanced practice to the American Association Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation.
Dean Suzanne Prevost received the Outstanding Nursing Administrator Award of Academia from the Alabama State Nurses Association. The award was presented during the ASNA state convention.

Dr. Theresa Wadas Majors was appointed to represent advanced practice to the American Association Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation.

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Marsha Adams/Dr. Alice March: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nurse Faculty Loan Program $119,984 7/01/14 – 6/30/15 “A Nurse Faculty Loan Program Supporting EdD for Nurse Educator Students”.


Dr. Michele Montgomery & Dr. Paige Johnson: Assessing Community Readiness for and Attitudes to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Pickens County. $6,999 from the Seed Funding Committee of the Council for Community-Based Partnerships.

Dr. Luanne Friend, PI: Interprofessional Education (IPE): Effects on Undergraduate Nursing and Medical Student’s Understanding of their Unique Roles in Healthcare Teams and Attitudes Toward Teamwork and IPE. $6,000 from the UA Research Grants Committee.

Dr. Michele Montgomery & Dr. Paige Johnson: UA Council for Community-Based Partnerships seed funds $4,975 10/1/2014-9/30/2015 “Assessing Community Readiness for and Attitudes to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Pickens County”.


JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


**Savage Jones, J.** (2014) Geriatric Nursing Update. Education by Design Program; Tuscaloosa City School Nurses, Tuscaloosa, Alabama (June).


**Stanton, M. P.** (2014) Advanced Practice Model in Multidisciplinary Case Management. CMSA’s 24th Conference & Expo (June; Refereed Presentation).
**FACULTY - NEW FACES**

**Julie Jones, MSN, RN**

Julie Savage Jones is a Nursing Instructor in the undergraduate program at the Capstone College of Nursing. She is a National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator. Julie earned a BSN from Auburn University in 1991. She continued her education at CCN, obtaining a MSN with a specialization in Nursing Case Management for Rural Populations. She is currently a doctoral candidate in UA's Instructional Leadership for Nurse Educators program.

Julie has practiced as a registered nurse for 23 years. Her varied clinical background includes adult health, mental health, and hospice nursing. Areas of special interest to her are Geriatric Nursing, Acute Care of the Elderly, and Tourette Syndrome. Her research interests include new graduate practice experience, curriculum leadership, and geriatric nursing.

**Amy Beasley, RN, DNP**

Dr. Amy Beasley is an Assistant Professor at the Capstone College of Nursing. She earned her BSN in 2008, a MSN in Rural Case Management in 2011, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in 2012. She began teaching at The Capstone College of Nursing in 2014. Dr. Beasley teaches in Fundamentals and Pharmacology in the BSN Program.

Dr. Beasley began her nursing career in the emergency room. She later received certification as a Specialist in Poison Information. Dr. Beasley's main concentration in nursing practice involves hospice and palliative care. She worked as a hospice case manager and is a National Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (NBCHPN). Her interests include pain and symptom management at the end of life and rural community healthcare access.

**Melissa Carruth, RN, MSN**

Melissa Carruth joined the faculty of the Capstone College of Nursing in 2012 as a part-time clinical instructor and in 2014 she joined the faculty full-time. Mrs. Carruth received her BSN from the Capstone College of Nursing. She then received her Master's Degree at UA and is currently enrolled as a doctoral student. Mrs. Carruth is seeking an EdD in Instructional Leadership with a Nurse Education Specialization.

Melissa has extensive OB experience working as a labor and delivery nurse for over 20 years. Mrs. Carruth is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and Golden Key International.

**Gwen Hooper, PhD, RN, FNP, APRN-BC**

Dr. Gwendolyn Hooper is an Assistant Professor at the Capstone College of Nursing where she teaches in the graduate program. She received her BSN from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and her MSN and PhD from the University of Kentucky.

With more than 30 years of experience as an advanced practice nurse, Dr. Hooper holds national credentials as a board certified Family Nurse Practitioner and an Advanced Practice Urology Nurse. She has worked in a variety of settings including medical-surgical, emergency medicine, surgery, and preoperative and postoperative care. Dr. Hooper's research interests are nursing education, lifestyle, aging and health, prostate cancer and men's health, urologic conditions and diseases, health care disparities and chronic illness.

Dr. Hooper serves on the board of the Society of Urology Nurses and Associates (SUNA). She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the National League of Nursing.

**Julie Jones, MSN, RN**

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Heather Reeves became a licensed practical nurse in 1994 and earned her Associates Degree in Nursing in 1996 from Shelton State Community College. She completed her BSN at the Capstone College of Nursing in 1999. At Samford University, she earned a MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Mrs. Reeves practiced in this role for approximately a year as a pulmonary nurse practitioner only to return to her love of bedside critical care nursing. She completed the first given Certification Exam for Radiological Nursing. She has been functioning in a part time clinical role for over five years with the nursing students and is now joining the University of Alabama in a full time position in Adult Health. Mrs. Reeves hopes to continue her educational journey along a doctoral pathway in the near future.

Debra Whisenant, RN, PhD

Dr. Debra Whisenant received her Ph.D. in Health Sciences with an emphasis in International Health from Touro University. She completed a post-doctoral residency in Outcomes Research at the University of Alabama - Birmingham. Along with a MSN, she also holds a Master of Science in Public Health.

Dr. Whisenant has worked in a variety of patient care settings, including neurological trauma, critical care, and organ donation. She is currently conducting research in the areas of civic and health based health promotion and the impact of lay individuals as health promoters within organizations.

She teaches research, statistics, and theory courses at the graduate level. In addition to her faculty responsibilities, Dr. Whisenant is involved in a number of professional organizations including the Southern Nursing Research Society, Alabama League for Nursing, Alabama Health Action Coalition, International Nurses Christian Fellowship, and Sigma Theta Tau.

Karen McCarty, PhD, MPH, MSN, CRNP

Dr. Karen McCarty has been a registered nurse since 1977, a nurse practitioner since 1998, a nurse researcher since 2003, and an educator since 1995. She is a two-time graduate of the University of Alabama in Birmingham (BSN and Masters in Public Health), MSN from the University of Florida, and PhD from the University of Central Florida.

Dr. McCarty’s research interests are in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods studies, as well as working with advanced practice nurses in evidence-based practice. She has precepted, taught and mentored staff nurses, nurse practitioners, and students at BSN, MSN, DNP, and PhD levels.

Dr. McCarty’s clinical background is extensive and she continues to practice as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children’s of Alabama where she actively applies the concepts and principals discussed in her course.

Justin White, DNP, PMHNP-BC, LCSW

Dr. Justin White is an assistant professor (clinical) at CCN and a board certified family psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner. His primary interests surround teaching and the provision of psychiatric care to patients in rural and underserved areas, the integration of primary care and mental health care with a specialty focus on geriatric psychiatric care.

For the first several years in his career, he practiced as a clinical social worker in rural and urban areas of New Mexico providing individual, family and group psychotherapy to children and adolescents as well as geriatric patients on an inpatient psychiatric unit. He then blended his social work education with nursing and continued to work as a nurse on an inpatient geriatric psychiatry unit while pursuing his advanced practice education as a family mental health nurse practitioner at University of Utah as a Hartford Foundation Scholar.
Dean Suzanne Prevost and
The Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association
invite you to

Homecoming at the Capstone

Saturday, November 22, 2014
Two and a half hours before kickoff
Free to UACCNAA members!
$12 for non-members

Join the Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association, faculty, and staff at the nursing building located at 650 University Boulevard for BBQ and fun!

We will be recognizing the classes of 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014.

RSVP to Tabby Brown at 205-348-7429 or thbrown4@ua.edu
Anne Allen
Angela Bale
John G. Beard
Cathy Boardman
Darlene Bray
Tara Bryant
Allison Chandler,
    Chair
Jung Ja Chwe
Delores Cole
Becky Danford
Sherry Falgout
Jan Gannon
Laurie Gautney
Terri Godoy
Phyllis Grant
Rick Hayes
Wayne Hogg
Cam Hughes
Debra Jones
Allen Klein
Donna McAllister
Elizabeth McGiffert
Kim Mitchell
Mary Jim Montgomery
Roger Myers
Becky Nichols
Hugh Overton
Margaret Phelps
Bonnie Ramsey
Suzy Reinhardt
Andy Romine
Vanda Scott
Leah Ann Sexton
Mary Frances Slaughter
Mary Smith
Donna Urrutia
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Lorraine Yehlen

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