



It's A Family Affair

Cynthia Morris is an integral part of the Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) Office of Student Affairs. A graduate of Ohio State University, Cynthia is CCN's Records Specialist. She coordinates data collection and maintains student records and databases. She is also the smiling face, helping our students navigate the program and understand policies and procedures. She follows our nursing students from acceptance to graduation, assisting with events such as promotion to upper division and commencement.

While guiding hundreds of young women and men through the Capstone College of Nursing is a job she loves, Cynthia takes special pride in two particular students – her own children, Matthew and Ashleigh Morris. Matthew, a traditional student, began CCN's upper division program in the fall of 2014. Ashleigh took a different path and earned her associate degree at Shelton State Community College. Then, she began our RN Mobility program in January 2016.

Cynthia knows firsthand how skillfully CCN faculty members prepare students to face the challenges and demands associated with being a nurse. She says, "I am confident both Ashleigh and Matthew will have wonderful opportunities for career choices and advanced degrees because they have been thoroughly equipped for nursing from their experiences at CCN." The Morris children both donned black robes with apricot nursing tassels this December and walked at UA's Winter Commencement ceremony.

Here's the story of how both came to the Capstone College of Nursing!

Ashleigh

When did you decide you wanted to be a nurse and why?

I have wanted to be a nurse since I was 4 or 5 years old. I remember sitting with my grandfather who had kidney issues. He would always say, "Become a nurse so you can take care of your grandpa." He loved the nurses that he met. Since then, being a nurse is all that I ever wanted to be because I wanted to take care of him.

Where are you working now?

I am currently working at DCH Regional Medical Center.

I have been there for about a year. I started on the stroke/ neuro floor and am currently in the Women's Center on the postpartum unit.

Why did you choose to go through our RN Mobility Program to get your BSN?

I chose to go through this program because I learned that the faculty and staff at this college were very welcoming and would do all they could to help with student needs. The RN Mobility instructors' awareness and accommodation of those who work full-time and have families is exceptional. Their understanding definitely told me that this program was right for me.

Did your mother influence your decision to go to school here?

My mother played a significant role in my decision to apply to CCN because she knows the curriculum so well. She knew that I was concerned about tackling school while working full-time and taking care of my 4-year-old son. I expressed my worries to her and she reassured me that the program was



doable for working mothers. She just kept pushing me with encouragement.

What do you like most about the nursing field?

Nursing is caring. Knowing that you make a difference in someone's life is the greatest feeling anyone can experience, even if you aren't a nurse. What I like most about the nursing field is helping our patients. The "thank yous" are so rewarding.

Do you plan to further your education after your BSN?

Yes, most definitely! I plan to go back to get my Doctor of Nursing Practice and become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Matthew

When did you decide you wanted to be a nurse and why?

I've always known that I wanted to help others and be a part of the healthcare system. I realized that nursing was for me at fifteen years old when I volunteered at DCH. I helped nurses with basic care activities, primarily moving patients and helping feed them. At the end of each day, I always had a sense of accomplishment because I knew I helped someone who needed me.

Why did you choose Alabama and the Capstone College of Nursing?

I did a lot of research on nursing schools in the Southeast and the Capstone College of Nursing would consistently be in the list of the best. The University of Alabama has always been a familiar, comfortable place for me. It didn't hurt that my mother worked there as well. She always spoke highly of the program but she encouraged me to follow my passions regardless of where they took me.

What do you like most about the Capstone College of Nursing program?

I like the intensity of the program. Nursing can be very challenging at times; but there was never a time where I felt alone or that I couldn't express my concerns to a faculty

member. I felt confident during every clinical rotation that I was adequately prepared for anything that might have been thrown my way. Knowing that I had the full support of the entire college helped push me through and I am very grateful for that.

What do you like most about the nursing field?

Being able to positively make a difference in someone's life is what drew me to nursing. Hands-on patient care gives me a feeling of accomplishment by helping people who can't help themselves. Being the patient's advocate brings out a passion in me like no other.

Do you plan to further your education after your BSN?

I plan on going to nurse practitioner school and obtaining a DNP from the University of Alabama with a dual certification in mental and family health specialties.



I am so excited that my children have degrees from the Capstone College of Nursing. It takes perseverance and dedication to complete our program. Matthew and Ashleigh are both intelligent, determined, thoughtful, respectful, and diligent. I am a very proud and happy parent!

Cynthia Morris