Partnerships

STRONGER TOGETHER
A key to the Capstone College of Nursing’s success can be found in the intricate web of connections between our students, faculty, administration, staff, volunteers, clinical sites, donors and even health care consumers. Partnerships of all types abound here. Without them, we could not produce such successful nursing graduates.

In this issue of the Capsule, we highlight some of the special alliances that exist within and outside of the walls of the CCN building. In the best of partnerships, both entities work better together than independently. This issue includes some shining examples of our successful collaborative relationships.

One of our newer clinical partners is Children’s of Alabama. CCN’s association with this world-renowned pediatric hospital provides a superb environment for our students to gain hands on nursing experience. Learn more about this win-win relationship in the article Limitless Opportunities for Learning. If the number of CCN graduates recently employed at Children’s is any indication, this is truly a mutually beneficial partnership.

Another exciting collaboration exists within one of our courses where students learn about the cooperative working relationships among health care providers. This interprofessional class which currently includes nursing and medical students is highlighted in Partnership: Interprofessional Education.

Long distance relationships prosper here too. Dr. JoAnn Oliver is advancing her leadership skills with the help of her mentor, Dr. Sandra Underwood, from the University of Wisconsin.

Our alliances with CCN benefactors have provided resources and opportunities for faculty and students. Because of them, we have a beautiful state-of-the-art facility and endowments to support several scholarships.

We are grateful for each of these relationships which enable our organization to thrive. Aristotle said, “Friendship is essentially a partnership.” So to our many CCN friends, thank you!
The Capstone College of Nursing’s clinical partnership with Children’s of Alabama is a relatively new one. The spring of 2015 is only the second semester that CCN students have experienced pediatric clinicals at this world-renowned children’s hospital.

What a beneficial relationship it has been for us and our students! According to CCN instructor Jasmine Hoggle, “We’re there because we want students to understand that there is much more to nursing than just administering medicines. Holistic care is huge in pediatrics and Children’s affords us the opportunity to take care of both the patient and the family.”

CCN students participating in this clinical experience travel to Children’s once a week for a semester. They spend a full day in the hematology/oncology floor of the hospital where each student is assigned two or three patients. Nursing students work alongside their CCN instructor, a primary nurse and patient care teams at the hospital. On this floor, students care for children who have life-altering and sometimes lifelong illnesses. Many of our students find that the experience is life changing for them as well.
“At Children’s everyone is so proactive and fights for a common goal!”

“The nurse I shadowed included me in evaluating patient care plans and proposing alternative interventions. The experience highlighted the importance of communication and collaboration on an interdisciplinary team.”

“It was awesome to shadow a CCN alum who passed along the torch!”

“I took vital signs, changed lines, and conducted physical assessments but I also learned about the emotional side of providing care. It’s a lesson I will take with me after graduation.”

“Nurses provide a vital support system for patients and their families. I saw so many examples of this on our clinical days at Children’s.”

“Play was so important to these young patients. It allowed them to be kids again, not kids defined by their illness.”

“As we have been taught, sometimes offering self and saying nothing is better than saying anything at all.”

“This clinical was the most influential experience I have had in nursing school. We learned things that I really don’t think we could have learned in a classroom.”

“BUTTON DAY IS THE BEST!”

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Excerpts from the journals of nursing students, Lindsay Ghiroli, Anna Cassels, Sarah Groover and Jane-Anne Elliot
Anne Evans Allen — Giving Back

BY CHRIS BRYANT

“I will be excited to see that first student selected... I’m very, very fortunate that I’m able to do this.”

rom introducing Mr. Bones – a life-sized skeletal model – to instructing kindergarten class to instructing nursing students as they shadowed while she made rounds at Bryce Hospital, Anne Evans Allen frequently found opportunities to combine nursing with teaching.

“I always wanted to be a nurse,” said Allen, who spent about 35 years in that role. “My mom always wanted me to be a teacher.”

Each, as it turned out, got their way.

“In most of my nursing career, I ended up teaching,” said Allen, 67, who retired in 2009 but still serves in health care as a volunteer at West Alabama Hospice.

Her latest impact on nursing students comes through her recent support of scholarships. Allen’s gift for the Capstone College of Nursing’s RN Mobility Program will establish an endowment to provide scholarship support for nursing students each year, in perpetuity.

“It will make a huge difference to these students,” Dr. Suzanne Prevost, dean of the Capstone College of Nursing,
said of the Anne Evans Allen
Endowed Scholarship. “It is often
difficult for adult learners to return
to school.”

The online program Allen is
supporting provides registered nurses
a flexible avenue to obtain a Bachelor
of Science in Nursing and/or Master
of Science in Nursing.

Allen says she was inspired, in
part, by watching her nephew, Alex
Farmer. At 30, and with a family,
Farmer recently became a registered
nurse, completing his associate degree
at Wallace Community College in
Dothan.

Many RNs are interested in
obtaining advanced degrees from
UA, Allen said, but they have
responsibilities in their hometowns
that would make it impractical
without the RN Mobility Program.

“They can’t just pack up and
move to Tuscaloosa,” Allen said.

In the program, registered nurses
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.

Scholarship candidates from
Dothan who are attending Wallace
will receive priority consideration for
the newly established award, with
secondary priority designated for
Tuscaloosa residents, said Allen, a
Dothan native.

“I will be excited to see that
first student selected,” she said. “It
makes the hair on my arms stand
up thinking about it. I’m very, very
fortunate that I’m able to do this.”

Allen’s ties to The University of
Alabama run deep. Now a member
of the Capstone College Board of
Visitors, the advisory board to UA’s
nursing college, Allen first enrolled in
UA’s nursing college in 1966, moving
to Birmingham her senior year when
the program was relocated to the
medical center. (UA established a
new nursing program in 1975).

Following stints as a labor and
delivery nurse supervisor at Dothan’s
Flower’s Hospital and working in a
Tuscaloosa OB/GYN office, Allen
earned her nurse practitioner license
and, soon thereafter, became Bryce
Hospital’s first nurse practitioner.

“I had 1,000 female patients,”
Allen said of the Tuscaloosa mental
health hospital’s population upon
her arrival. Following a 20-year
career at Bryce, Allen took her nurse
practitioner experience to the Mary
Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatric
Center, located on the Bryce campus.

For 22 of the 30 years she worked
at these mental health facilities she
also served as a UA adjunct faculty
member in nursing. In 2006, she
returned full time to UA, as a
human simulation specialist, where
she helped train nursing students
in patient care through the use of a
life-sized, computer-controlled device
that simulated patients.

“Good nurses have a passion for
what they do,” Allen said.

“You’ve got to want to put
everything into it,” she said. “My
advice is: be the type of nurse that
you would want to take care of
you or your family member,” Allen
says. “It’s been a long ride, but it’s
been fun. I’ve enjoyed it. I wouldn’t
hesitate to do it again.”

For information on giving opportunities,
visit giving.ua.edu
or contact Shelley Jordan
Director of Development at the
Capstone College of Nursing.

sdjordan@ua.edu
(205) 348-9876

The University of Alabama 7
Dr. Robin Lawson was appointed professor and senior associate dean of the Capstone College of Nursing in February 2015. In this position, she serves as the chief academic officer of the College. Her responsibilities include planning, implementing and evaluating baccalaureate and graduate programs. She coordinates the nursing accreditation process and is responsible for negotiating clinical agency contracts.

“The Capstone College of Nursing is privileged to have Dr. Lawson in our administration. She is a highly qualified, energetic educator who has already made significant contributions to our school,” says Dean Suzanne Prevost.

Dr. Lawson began her career in academia in 2001 when she joined the University of South Alabama College of Nursing as an assistant professor. She was coordinator of the Advanced Emergency Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner) dual role specialty. She rose to the rank of professor and served as associate dean for clinical affairs while there.

Dr. Lawson received her undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of South Alabama. She is an expert in the design, implementation, and evaluation of nursing curriculum.

Dr. Lawson is nationally certified as an adult and acute care nurse practitioner. She has maintained a successful clinical/faculty practice since 2003 and has served as a preceptor to numerous nurse practitioner and medical students.

Nursing and other professional organizations have recognized Dr. Lawson for her service, leadership, and practice activities. She received the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama Outstanding Nurse Practitioner award in 2013 and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence in NP Clinical Practice for Alabama in 2009. Dr. Lawson currently serves as the Nurse Practitioner Representative for the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Advanced Practice Nurse Representative for the Alabama Council of the Emergency Nurses Association.

As a successful researcher and scholar, Dr. Lawson’s interests include nursing education and improving cardiovascular disease risk factors in overweight and obese, low-income uninsured women.

“I have been a huge fan of the capstone of education in our state for many years, and I am delighted to now be a part of the UA family. What an honor it is for me to be in a position to participate in the traditions and endeavors of such a prestigious university. I look forward to working with administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni in providing the highest-quality education for nursing students from across the nation. Roll Tide!”

Robin Lawson
Dr. JoAnn Oliver was selected to participate in the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy.

Administered by STTI and Chamberlain College of Nursing Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, the 12-month highly selective mentored leadership academy is designed to further academic career development and success; promote personal and professional leadership development; develop and begin to implement a personal leadership progression plan; expand the influence of the Leadership Scholar within his or her sponsoring academic institution, the community and the profession in the context of teaching, scholarship or service; advance nursing education through leadership development projects implemented by Leadership Scholars during the program; and promote experienced nurse faculty retention in academe.

“I am honored to have been selected for this amazing national leadership training academy,” Oliver said. “This is also an opportunity for me to represent The University of Alabama and the Capstone College of Nursing among an inaugural cohort of colleagues from across the nation.”

The Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy pairs experienced full-time faculty leaders, called scholars, with mentors, who are then supported by academy faculty members. The academy curriculum includes a variety of educational strategies for developing leadership knowledge, competence and outcomes.

“As a nurse educator and president-elect of our local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, I am looking forward to gaining both theoretical and experiential knowledge from this opportunity,” she said. “This will augment my ability to lead in efforts to accomplish the nursing honor society’s mission of excelling in scholarship, leadership and service. Additionally, as a fellow in this academy I have a mentor and assigned faculty member, who are both nationally recognized leaders, to guide and collaborate with as a team. This is a unique and invaluable experience. Completing this academy will position me to empower others, a true attribute of a leader.”

Dr. Oliver’s leadership plan incorporates learning and development opportunities for other CCN faculty members. She is serving as co-editor, along with her mentor, for an edition of Nursing Clinics of North America. As guest editor, Dr. Oliver has enlisted junior members of our faculty to review manuscripts and has provided them and others opportunities to submit scholarly works to the publication. She also established and leads a monthly Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) faculty support group.

The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is a nonprofit organization whose mission is advancing world health and celebrating nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. Founded in 1922, STTI has more than 135,000 active members in more than 85 countries. Members include practicing nurses, instructors, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs and others.
Excellence in health care requires effective teamwork where multiple disciplines collaborate to provide patient-centered care. Not unlike a championship football team, health care clinicians must practice together to learn their unique roles as well as how to function as a group in order to achieve quality outcomes. Research suggests that collaborative nurse-physician relationships are associated with lower patient mortality rates, fewer readmissions to the hospital and higher patient satisfaction. In addition, enhanced understanding between nurses and physicians regarding one another's roles and expertise may ultimately prevent health care errors.

In an effort to support interprofessional education, the Capstone College of Nursing and the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences have partnered to provide undergraduate nursing students and third and fourth year medical students the chance to study competencies associated with effective teams, while also getting to know more about each other.
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With this partnership, administration and faculty are working to provide opportunities for health professions students to engage in interactive learning with those outside their profession. The ultimate objective is to prepare students for deliberately working together with the common goal of building a safer and better patient-centered health care system.

Faculty from CCN and CCHS collaborate to provide an opportunity for students to interact weekly for two hours to learn from and with each other about topics including four competencies associated with interprofessional education — values/ethics for interprofessional practice, roles/responsibilities, interprofessional communication, and teams and teamwork.

The course provides a forum for the disciplines to interact with each other to discuss and resolve shared issues commonly encountered in the health care environment. Students meet in the classroom and the clinical practice lab at CCN to learn how to perform critical care procedures, based on current best practice guidelines, as teams as opposed to traditional methods where they have learned in isolation of one another. The course will culminate with an interactive interprofessional simulation in the school of nursing simulation lab.

Students have shown great enthusiasm for the course and have identified instances in their own experiences where they have witnessed a lack of communication between physicians and nurses. Likewise, students have verbalized how they plan to prevent communication breakdowns which are known to be associated with major errors in both acute and community health care settings.

Faculty has witnessed students learning about each other’s unique contributions to patient care, as opposed to preconceived ideas based on limited exposure and/or stereotypes. As one nursing student reported during the first week of class, “nurses are the eyes and ears for the health care provider and advocate for the patient when they cannot advocate for themselves”. Likewise, medical students reported how they “marvel at what nurses know about each patient, and how they “depend upon nursing to inform them of critical information as they complete their daily rounds”. Although the course is new, students and faculty agree that the foundation for effective interprofessional practice will be strengthened as a result of the partnership between administration, faculty and students at the CCN and the CCHS.
Winning Undergraduate Research

CCN had a strong presence at UA’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference this year. More than 20 teams of students participated, a CCN record! Congratulations to all the participants with a big round of applause going to poster presentation winners:

First Place: #119
- Barbara Thornton
- Emma-Caitlin Pitts
- Katie Meredith
- Kristina Collins
- Ashley Mixson
- Virginia Farlow
- Lauren Higginbotham
- Staci Shea
- Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Ragland

Second Place: #105
- Katie Chapman
- Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paige Johnson

Third Place: #112
- Molly McCain
- Laura Harris
- Alison Brock
- Carla Keith
- Shanice Baldwin
- Madeline Krams
- Asia Dawson
- Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michele Montgomery
Capstone College of Nursing Fundamentals faculty enlisted the help of volunteer experts to enhance classroom learning. Shari Duke, an RN at Madison Hospital, shared her workplace experience on the topic of chest tube care.

Jimmy Raynowska, representing Champion DME, demonstrated oxygen delivery devices to students.
Partnership Advisory Council (PAC)

PAC was organized in 2004 by Dr. Jeanette VanderMeer, the Capstone College of Nursing’s first RN Mobility Coordinator. Members of PAC have a vested interest in RN to BSN education in the state of Alabama. The council is comprised of representatives from associate degree nursing programs and community partners including the Alabama Department of Health, hospitals and health care related businesses within the state. It is headed by CCN’s current RN Mobility Coordinator, Dr. Michelle Cheshire.

PAC meets annually at the Capstone College of Nursing but members communicate throughout the year. They work in collaboration to make the educational transition from associate degree preparation to BSN preparation at CCN seamless.

CCN representatives visit campuses to recruit students who wish to pursue a baccalaureate nursing degree and advise them regarding admissions requirements. Over the years, PAC members have contributed insights that have resulted in improvement to CCN’s curriculum and admission requirements. PAC has proved to be a win-win partnership to BSN program that meets community stakeholders.
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Where can you find PAC members? All over the State of Alabama.

PAC members are identified by number and listed on previous page.
In NUR 504, first year NP graduate students participate in rural interprofessional simulations as part of their journey towards a degree in the MSN Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations. This class is a collaborative effort between UA’s Capstone College of Nursing, the College of Community Health Sciences, the School of Social Work, the College of Human Environmental Sciences, and the College of Arts and Sciences. The simulation provides an opportunity for graduate nursing, medical, social work and nutrition students to interact with UA theater students who pose as patients with multiple chronic conditions from rural areas.

Graduate students are given a case study, then interview and assess patients across their disciplines. The students formulate a plan of care which they present to the patient. Year two NP students participate as well by mentoring and observing the simulation. Once the exercise is completed everyone involved meets with interprofessional core faculty for debriefing on patient experiences and the multi-disciplinary approach to health care.
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The University of Alabama EdD in Instructional Leadership for Nurse Educators is a unique program that combines College of Education faculty and College of Nursing faculty to offer an interdisciplinary program of study that seeks to provide advanced training for those seeking roles in Nursing Education. The EdD Program was established in 2007 and is currently set to enroll its 9th Cohort of students.

The program offers an affordable, low residency doctoral program that represents a tremendous educational value for students. The program utilizes a cohort model that provides social support and promotes student learning outcomes. The blended learning structure offers flexibility, allowing most students to continue to work full-time while completing their doctoral studies. Students in the program represent much of the Southeastern US but the program has a broad national appeal as well.

The Nurse Educator program aims to address the nursing faculty shortage by preparing practicing nurses to work as nurse educators, scholars, researchers, policy makers, and institutional leaders in colleges and universities. Through this program nurses develop the teaching and research skills, curricular knowledge, and technological expertise needed to work as a faculty member in higher education settings.

The Capstone College of Nursing and College of Education partner to deliver the program by sharing faculty, facilities and resources. An Interdisciplinary Steering committee comprised of members of both faculty frequently meet to discuss program learning outcomes and direction.

The program welcomed a new EdD cohort in January. Nurse Educator students kicked off the Spring 2015 semester with poster presentations and a lecture.
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Crystal Day-Black (EdD Cohort 5) was recognized as the recipient of the 2014-2015 Dr. Judy Bonner Nurse Educator of the Year Award. The recipient of this award has evidenced the traits of integrity, enthusiasm and creative leadership. Congratulations, Crystal.
BSN Graduates

DNP graduates, (l-r) Cynthia Stinson, Angella Samuels, Chondra Butler, Antiqua Smart, Tammy Billings, Alma Olson, Virginia Smith, Reginald Middlebrooks, and Laura Hernandez

EdD Graduate, Ashleigh Woods

RN Mobility Graduate, Tracy McHaney

EdD Graduates, Jacqueline Smith, Donna Beuk, and Anjanetta Davis

December 2014 Graduation Reception
Rachel Allen Receives Outstanding Preceptor Award

The 2015 Outstanding Preceptor Undergraduate Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the clinical education of CCN undergraduate students. This year’s outstanding preceptor, chosen by both faculty and students, is Rachel Allen, BSN, RN who practices at Medical West, ICU in Bessemer, Alabama.

Rachel has repeatedly been a preceptor to nursing students from various schools. She makes them feel comfortable while helping them develop their confidence. According to CCN instructor Heather Reeves, “She is very generous and meticulous with the care she provides to her patients and families. Her natural sense of care-giving exudes from her persona without any forced effort. Rachel Allen is definitely a role model to all nurses looking for guidance.”

Alicia Weatherby Named Janet S. Awtrey Distinguished Nursing Leader

The Janet S. Awtrey Distinguished Nursing Leader Award was established by Dean Emeritus Janet Awtrey to recognize leaders in clinical practice or education for contributions made specifically to the Capstone College of Nursing and to nursing as a profession. This year’s recipient is Alicia Weatherby, MS, RN, CRNI.

Alicia has served as the Clinical Affiliate Coordinator for DCH Regional and Northport Medical Centers in Tuscaloosa and Northport. Dr. Melondie Carter, CCN Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs said, “Alicia works tirelessly to provide excellent clinical experiences for over 800 hundred nursing, EMT and paramedic students.” One of the primary educators for the monthly Patient Care Assistant orientation, Alicia plays a role in RN orientation as well. She displays a passion for contributing to nursing education from the clinical acute care setting.
The CCN Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a distinguished Capstone College of Nursing graduate who has demonstrated continuous and exemplary contributions to the profession of nursing and to health care. The inaugural award goes to long-time UACCNAA president, Philip Fikes, CRNA, MNA.

Co-owner of a nurse anesthesia partnership in Tuscaloosa, Capstone Anesthesia Services, LLC, Philip has a reputation of being an excellent clinician. Though busy with his practice and family obligations, he is a loyal and dedicated alumnus.

Philip has served as the President of the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association (UACCNAA) for over 15 years. When he began his term, the alumni association’s treasurer reported less than $200 in the account. Not only has the association’s bank account increased tremendously but its membership as well. Increased revenues have allowed UACCNAA to fund numerous initiatives including two annual scholarships, an Alumni Garden for students, staff and faculty, and bicycle helmets for area youth as part of a community health class. Philip has also provided guest lectures for nursing courses and is an amazing teacher. He and his entire family play a big role in CCN’s annual Homecoming event.

Coach Bryant said he came back to Alabama to coach because “Mama Called”. Philip has been an amazing alumnus when the College has called on him. Thank you Philip!
President’s Message

Dear Fellow Alums:

Partnership. . .Many things come to mind when I think about a partnership. You find them in countless forms: personal relationships, business alliances and institutions like our College. For a partnership to work one has to participate, associate and have a joint interest in the success of the partnership.

When I became a student at The University of Alabama, an instant partnership was formed. I had to do my part as a student and my educators had to do their part to educate me. Not only did I receive a great education from the Capstone College of Nursing, I loved every minute at UA. If I had to do it all over again, I would not change a thing. Now that is a partnership—a lifelong one!

Since graduating from the University of Alabama and becoming gainfully employed, I have completed a master’s degree. However, my investment in this partnership with the Capstone College of Nursing has not wavered. I, as well as many other alums, continue to support CCN in its efforts to educate and provide scholarship opportunities for the men and women who follow us in pursuing a nursing education.

As president of our Alumni Association, I encourage each of you to invest in your partnership with CCN by becoming a member of UACCNAA. It is our mission to serve our alumni, faculty and students here at the Capstone.

Philip Fikes, CRNA, MNA
President

The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing
Alumni Association Board of Directors

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The University of Alabama
HOMECOMING 2014
Class of 1982

Cathy Little Longeway is celebrating her 5th year with Amgen. She is currently in the Cardiovascular division.

Class of 1983

Deborah Kay Fike Crooke says “our first grandchild, Hannah Marie Crooke, was born on February 13th to our son, William David and his wife Sarah Elizabeth!

Class of 1984

Melinda Allen Lancaster says, “After 30 years of nursing, I have retired and let my two daughters take on the Nursing profession! Maegan Lancaster is a 2013 graduate of University of Alabama-Huntsville with a BSN and works at UAB in The Womens and Infant Center. Our youngest Sarah Lancaster is a 2014 graduate of The University of Mobile with a BSN and works at UAB on a Brain Injury Unit-Spain Rehab. Very proud of our girls for following in their mom’s footsteps to a rewarding profession. My husband Tom is an Engineer with The US Army! We’ve been married 30 years and live in Decatur, Alabama.

Class of 1987

Tammy Porter Talley celebrated her 35th year with the Veterans Health Administration in March 2015. She worked as a LPN until completion of her BSN at the Capstone in 1987.

Class of 1992

Roger Kirk and Kelly Booker were married at Lake Martin Chapel on November 1, 2014 and reside in Montgomery, Alabama.

Class of 1999

LCDR William Joseph RouLaine was selected as Naval Hospital Pensacola’s Associate Director, Surgical Services. During the first 45 days, he co-coordinated the inception of a Procedural Sedation Suite for Endoscopy, Pulmonology, and Cardiology improving efficiency and aligning the Main Operating Room with BUMED optimization practices. Lieutenant commander RouLaine serves as the Command’s Chief Nursing Informatics Officer. He developed venues for increased communication which resulted in modernized business practices, enhanced Department Head engagement, and staff understanding and buy-in of significant changes towards mission goals.

LCDR RouLaine has served at Naval Hospital Bethesda, MD; Naval Hospital Keflavik, Iceland; Naval Hospital Pensacola; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naval Hospital 29 Palms, California and Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Class of 2006 & 2013

Dr. John Hodnett is Director of Clinical Operations and interim co-director of the business office of Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital. He is also an (adjunct) Associate Professor at the University of MS Medical Center in the School of Health Related Professions, an expert witness for a large law firm for geriatric and psychiatric defense cases, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Nurses’ Association. Dr. Hodnett has produced numerous scholarly works including this book chapter, Lauterbach, S.S. & Hodnett, J. (2016). Psychiatric care and mental health in the community. In K.S. Lundy and S. Janes (Eds.). Community health nursing: Caring for the public’s health (3rd Ed.) (pp. 753-787). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning. He also serves on the Coordinated Care implementation team with the Mississippi Alzheimer’s Association.

Class of 2008

Cindy Richards was elected to serve as the National President of the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) for the 2015-2016 year. ANNA represents nurses who work in all areas of nephrology and has a membership of approximately 10,000 registered nurses in more than 100 local chapters across the United States.

Class of 2006

Gina Franco has been nominated by her co-workers for a Greenville Memorial Medical Campus Nursing Award! She is also being nominated for Nurse of the Year at Greenville Health System in South Carolina.

Class of 2010

Ashley Maria Boler graduated in December 2014 from the UAB adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner program and is working with UAB cardiology at Medical West.
Alex Woodard, Class of 2010, with his bride Whitney.

Tiffany Dupree will be graduating with her MSN with an FNP concentration from Samford University in May 2015 and will be inducted into Sigma Theta Tau.

Jessica N. Lee is engaged to be married to Brandon J Barr on June 27, 2015. In the fall, she will begin her journey to achieve an MSN in Child Health with a Role Specialty in Teaching at the University of Texas in Austin.

Alicia Wright, a MSN/CNL graduate August 2014 and BSN graduate May 2010, is a Clinical Education Specialist in the Pediatric ER at Huntsville Hospital. She has been selected as a faculty member for the ENA (Emergency Nurses Association) annual national conference in Orlando in October and will present a class “IV Start Pain Management in Pediatrics”.

Class of 2012

Jenna Denise Weber Oates obtained a Master of Science in Nursing, graduating from UAB’s FNP program (Dec 2014).

Dr. Amanda Leigh Woodard Perry has obtained the following since graduating the DNP program:
- Certified Diabetes Educator
- Certified Medical Examiner
- Diplomat of Comprehensive Care
- Mississippi Nurses’ Association Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year Nominee 2015
- The Global Directory of Who’s Who: Honoring Executives and Professionals

She was also appointed as an adjunct faculty member at Maryville University in St. Louis, MO. A long-time Mississippi resident, Amanda recently accepted a position in Cooperstown, ND.

Class of 2013

Dr. James E. Conkle is now teaching Evidence Based Practice as well as Nursing Research at the MSN level at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Kibbra DeLana Cunningham has a new job as an Infection Prevention Specialist at Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, Georgia.

Dr. Victor Delgado says that “with my DNP from UA, I was able to get my dream job of Clinical Assistant Professor at Florida International University!”

Class of 2014

Dr. Antiqua Smart’s work titled “Developing an information literacy workshop to foster evidence-based practice among nurse practitioner students” was accepted into the Clinical Scholars Review journal.

Dr. Rachel Stewart’s manuscript titled “Colorectal cancer screening: Comparison of techniques” was accepted into the Gastroenterology Nursing journal. She is also presenting her findings at the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates conference in May in Baltimore, MD.

Apollo Townsend has been chosen by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization to sit on the Quality and Standards Committee. She recently was a guest on a local Raleigh, NC radio station, 680 WPPF, as a representative of her current employer, Transitions LifeCare.

Scan with your smartphone or visit http://nursing.ua.edu/alumni_update.htm to fill out the alumni update form and look for your news in the next edition of the Capsule.
Dr. Susan Appel was appointed to the Alabama Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Advisory Council and to the Program Committee of the 3rd Annual Worldwide Nursing Conference (WNC 2015) in Singapore in June 2015.

Dr. Amy Beasley was accepted into the Health Disparities Research Training Certificate Program 2015 by UAB’s Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center.

Dr. Melondie Carter was selected to participate in UA’s 2014-2015 Leadership U and SECU. She is also serving on the Presidential Search Committee for The University of Alabama.

Dr. Sheree Carter was appointed a Task Force Member for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and the Lupus Foundation of America with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Leslie Cole was appointed a clinical practice through the UA WellBAMA program.

Dr. Cassandra Ford received a 2015 Lamplighter Award from the Alabama League for Nursing. The award recognizes individuals for exemplary contributions to the nursing profession.

Dr. Ann Graves received funding from the UA Research Grants Committee & CCN for “Comparisons of Cardiometabolic Risk between African-American and Caucasian women in a Worksite Wellness Program.”

Dr. Marilyn Handley was elected Chair of the Alabama Section of the Association for Women’s Health, Obstetrical, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) and will serve as a member of their National Section Advisory Panel.

Dr. Paige Johnson received the 2015 Outstanding Committee to Teaching Award from the Capstone College of Nursing Board of Visitors. Dr. Johnson was chosen for her passion for teaching and her commitment to students.

Julie Jones was appointed to be the State Policy Director for Alabama for the national Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA).

Dr. Sara Kaylor, has been certified by the National League for Nursing as a Certified Nurse Educator.

Dr. JoAnn S. Oliver served as an investigator on Sharing Opinions and Advice on Research (SOAR) in the Deep South which received a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Award.
Dr. Ann Graves received funding from the UA Research Grants Committee & CCN for “Comparisons of Cardiometabolic Risk between African-American and Caucasian women in a Worksite Wellness Program.”

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Dr. Sara Kaylor, has been certified by the National League for Nursing as a Certified Nurse Educator.

Dr. JoAnn S. Oliver served as an investigator on Sharing Opinions and Advice on Research (SOAR) in the Deep South which received a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Award.

Dr. Ernesto Perez was appointed to the Communications Committee for The National Academies of Practice as an Editorial Board member for the Journal of Interprofessional Education and Practice (National Academies of Practice).

Dr. Suzanne Prevost was named one of the 30 Most Influential Deans of Nursing in the U.S. Ranking was based on data that included awards, ‘Top 10’ rankings, National Institutes of Health funding, National Council Licensure and Examination passing percentage.

Dr. Marietta Stanton was chosen by CCN for recognition at The University of Alabama’s first Faculty Research Day where she received the President’s Faculty Research Award for her scholarly accomplishments.

Dr. Theresa Wadas received her second doctoral degree with the successful defense of her PhD in April 2015.

Dr. Debra Whisenant received an SNRS Research Grant Award for “Adapting a community-based participatory health promotion model implemented in Haiti and Jamaica to effectively engage poor, rural, southern residents of a medically underserved community in Appalachia.”

Dr. Michelle Cheshire & Dr. Haley Strickland received funding from the UA Research Grants Committee & CCN for “Predicting Nursing Student Success: Exploring New Variables.”

Dr. Paige Johnson & Dr. Michele Montgomery received funding from the UA Research Grants Committee & CCN for “Assessing Overweight and Obesity and Associated Risk Factors in Rural Preschool Children.”

Remembering Dr. Norma Mobley

Dr. Norma Mobley, 4th Dean of the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, died on December 27, 2014 at the age of 86. She was a visionary leader in nursing education for four decades. Her initiatives focused specifically on expanding the capacity of nursing programs through faculty development, recruitment and retention, and the transformation of nursing curricula.

Dr. Mobley is a graduate of the Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Birmingham. She went on to receive her RN from the Ida Moffett School of Nursing at Samford University and her BSN, MSN and EdD from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Mobley will be remembered not only for her contributions to our college as an administrator and teacher, but also for contributions to the profession. She served as President of the Alabama State Nurses Association and was member of the legislative committee. She was a member of the board of directors for the Alabama League for Nursing and served on the Southeastern Regional Council on Nurse Midwifery. She was a charter member of Sigma Theta Tau, Nu Chapter.
PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Appel, S.J. & Buxbaum, S.G. (10, 2014). Polymorphisms, Plasma Levels of PAI-1 and Genetic Admixture among African American women. 14th Annual Conference Eliminating Health Disparities in Mississippi “Obesogens,” Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. (First Place Faculty Poster Award)


Carter, S., Lead panelist on the first broadcast of the four part series, “Treating RA Through the Lifespan – Focus on Pediatric Issues” Live Broadcast Google Hangout – Internet, March 2015


Dr. Sheree Carter began her career with a Diploma in Nursing in 1977 from Druid City Hospital’s School of Nursing in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She later earned her BSN from Auburn University at Montgomery, her MSN/CNS from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and her PhD in Nursing Education from the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University.

Dr. Carter began teaching in 2010 at UAB in clinical trials management and clinical research methods. She later taught at UAH in both graduate and undergraduate programs. Her teaching responsibilities at CCN include Mental Health Nursing and Inquiry for Evidence-Based Practice.

Her research interests focus in the areas of education, benchmarking the roles undertaken by rheumatology nurses, patient outcomes, as well as research ethics, and education and training of rheumatology nurses and research nurse coordinators/managers.

She is a charter member of the Rheumatology Nurses Society (RNS) and was the first recipient of RNS Research Initiatives Award. She is lead editor and a chapter author for the Core Curriculum for Rheumatology Nursing, serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for Value-Based Care in Rheumatology, and on the Editorial Board for Rheumatology Nurse Practice Newsletter.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.
Dr. Lorena Lyon graduated from the University of Maine, Augusta with an associate's degree in nursing in 1985 and from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2001.

Her degrees from the University of Alabama include an MSN in 2013 and EdD in 2014. While studying in Tuscaloosa, she was a 2010 Recipient of a Nurse Educator Scholarship from the Alabama Board of Nursing. Dr. Lyon began teaching at the Capstone College of Nursing in January 2015.

Practicing as a registered nurse for 29 years, Dr. Lyon worked predominantly in community health. She has experience with home health and hospice, elderly services and for the past ten years as a school nurse for children with special health care needs.

Her research interests relate to disability and chronic illness. She has published in the NASN School Nurse.

Dr. Lyon is an active member of the international nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau.

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. She has extensive experience in urology and the management of urinary incontinence, interstitial cystitis, and non-surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse.

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.

In addition to her faculty responsibilities, 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.
Save the Date for Homecoming at the Capstone

Saturday, October 10, 2015
Two and a half hours before kickoff

Free to UACCNAA members!