MAKING DREAMS A REALITY
Exploring the impact of scholarships at the Capstone College of Nursing
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Every gift to the Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association adds up to something big. Let’s make a difference together. Join us today by using the envelope located in the center fold of our magazine or by going online to nursing.ua.edu/giving. For more information about how you can support our College, please contact Anita Hamlett at 205-348-9876 or ahamlett@ua.edu.

Join Us!
Providing an atmosphere that encourages growth is essential to the success of any institution of higher education. The Capstone College of Nursing prides itself in offering a stimulating environment where students, faculty, community partners and friends in the health care industry can develop to their fullest potential. We deliver outstanding opportunities for learning in traditional classrooms, online courses, clinical labs, continuing education conferences and speaker events, and through supervised clinical work experiences.

Our College continues to be the school of choice for many of the best and brightest nursing students in Alabama and beyond. While enrollment across UAs campus has increased gradually every year for the past five, nursing enrollment has grown even faster. While reading this issue, you will learn more about CCN’s program developments, additional admission cycles, and plans to expand our building.

We hope you will ‘catch up’ with old friends in the Alumni & Friends sections of the magazine!

Anytime you have news you’d like to share, please send us an update through our website in the Alumni & Friends tab. We love staying in touch!

As you read, you may notice some changes to the Capsule; in this issue, we have included CCN’s Annual Report, offering a snapshot of the College’s year. We want all of you to know what we have been working on over the past year, and see what progress we are making in multiple areas of the College.

In the near future, we may be calling on our alumni and friends to help us grow to meet the needs of our current and future nursing students. By working together to expand our capacity, we can encourage and produce even more nurses who use their knowledge and skills in service to others.

Suzanne S. Prevost, PhD, FAAN, RN
Angelyn Adams Giambalvo Dean and Professor
There are at least two stories behind every scholarship that provides funds for qualified nursing students.

In 1999, I spent almost three months with my husband at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where he underwent a serious surgery. Miles from home and disconnected from our network of family and friends, we relied on the care and kindness of his nurses. Although his wounds have since healed, we remain indebted to those amazing nurses who exhibited genuine warmth and concern in our time of need. It takes a special person to commit to serving others like our nurses did. Every night, while the rest of the world sleeps, nurses across the globe are awake – offering comfort, administering care and saving lives.

For an individual who dreams of becoming a nurse, but cannot afford to earn a degree, scholarships provide the necessary financial assistance to help a student make that dream a reality. Today, 18 years since that Mayo experience, I am blessed to have the opportunity to help donors establish endowed scholarships through the years with their scholarship recipients.

There are at least two stories behind every scholarship awarded at the Capstone College of Nursing – one story behind what led the donor to create the endowment, and another behind what led the student to pursue a nursing degree. Some warm your heart, others break it.

ACHIEVING THE DREAM

Aarin Eddy is a fifth semester nursing student from Hatton, Ala. Eddy had her heart set on attending UA, but knew there would be many obstacles to overcome to make her dream a reality. But this was something she knew she could handle as she had already conquered a number of personal obstacles, well before her high school graduation. When Eddy was four months old, her mother unexpectedly passed away. Her father battled an ongoing drug and alcohol addiction, which eventually led to an arrest and 15-year jail sentence. At the time of his arrest, Eddy was just 10 years old; prior to his arrest, Eddy’s father had given full custody of Aarin and her brother to their grandmother.

“She was our support system and our rock, filling our lives with love and happiness. She always went above and beyond to give us the life that other children had, and never once complained or thought about herself. Her ability to provide for us was truly amazing.”

In April 2011, Eddy’s grandmother was diagnosed with end-stage cancer; 28 days later, she passed away.

“Prior to her death, especially in my earlier teenage years, I was broken and angered by why I had been given so much misfortune and hurt at such a young age. It was the death of my grandmother that offered peace and understanding toward why certain things had occurred in my life. I now could see how unbelievably lucky I was to have been raised by such an outstanding woman that I was able to learn so much from. After she passed away, I decided to be the best version of myself I could possibly be. I made it my life’s goal to make sure she would be proud of the woman I became.”

It was over the course of her grandmother’s battle with cancer that Eddy first considered nursing as a career. She was able to see how the nurses aided in the care of her grandmother, both in the hospital and in home health settings. Eddy helped in whatever way she could to improve her grandmother’s quality of life during that difficult time.

“I realized that if I was strong enough to care for the person I loved most in this world during her final days, I could care for others, as a nurse.”

After her grandmother’s passing, Eddy threw herself into her studies and discovered a passion for the sciences. She felt that her desire to help others, paired with her love of science, would make her a great nurse.

Eddy first visited UA during her senior year of high school and fell in love with the campus. And knowing that her goal was to ultimately become a nurse, she began researching the Capstone College of Nursing.

“I researched its credentials, NCLEX pass rates, and what made it stand out in relation to other nursing schools. I immediately noticed the five semester program in relation to many schools requiring only four semesters, and probed further to find that much of my last semester (around 200 hours to be exact) would be spent one-on-one with a registered nurse. I was sold.”

Although the additional cost of the program’s fifth semester weighed on her mind, Eddy felt CCN would best prepare her to become an “exceptional, compassionate and highly qualified nurse.” She decided prior to applying to UA that she would apply for every scholarship she could. If she did not receive the funding she needed, she would attend a smaller school closer to home. She was thrilled when she was awarded a first-generation scholarship that allowed her to enter her freshman year at UA; but her anxiety returned when she realized she would still need substantial assistance from student loans to complete her BSN. It was then she learned she would be awarded additional scholarships through CCN.

“The news of receiving scholarships through the Capstone College of Nursing finally offered the relief I was desperately seeking. I continued to work throughout college but now could focus on what I had come to UA for, my degree in nursing.”

Aarin Eddy pictured with her brother, Bunt, Aunt Penny Terry and Uncle Shannon Terry.
These scholarships not only lessened the financial burden of higher education, but also bolstered her self-confidence at a crucial time.

“I was first notified that I had been selected as a scholarship recipient the spring semester of my sophomore year, just as I was preparing to apply to upper division. Before applying, I was struggling with doubts and uneasiness. Aside from my financial concerns, I also was doubting my abilities as a student. I knew the Capstone College of Nursing was very competitive, and only those who excelled in lower division would be accepted. I had little confidence in myself and my ability to succeed in the program. The news of receiving scholarships from the Capstone College of Nursing came just in time to reassure me that I could achieve my dream of graduating from such an esteemed program. This scholarship offered me a new confidence in myself that I had lacked before. Knowing that donors I had never met believed in me enough to offer financial support was an amazing feeling. It pushed me to work harder than ever before.

These scholarships allowed me to worry less about my finances and instead focus on my academics, work, and volunteer interests. My donors have played a major role in my success and my ability to succeed in the program. The news of receiving scholarships from the Capstone College of Nursing came just in time to reassure me that I could achieve my dream of graduating from such an esteemed program. This scholarship offered me a new confidence in myself that I had lacked before. Knowing that donors I had never met believed in me enough to offer financial support was an amazing feeling. It pushed me to work harder than ever before.

So many students, Andrews would bear the weight of her college tuition. Knowing what a comfort to others like his nurses did. "Like so many students, Andrews would bear the weight of her college tuition. Knowing what a comfort to others like his nurses did. "

"I witnessed how his suffering seemed to be alleviated when his favorite nurses were assigned to his room. At that young age, I knew I wanted to bring comfort to others like his nurses did."

Emily Andrews is a Tuscaloosa native who graduated from the Capstone College of Nursing in December 2016. Growing up with fond memories of CCN that stuck with her the most came in the difficult time following her mother’s accident.

“The entire College of Nursing came together like nothing I’ve ever seen before. I have never felt so supported, loved, and cared for from someone outside my family. Everyone who reached out made such an impact on me. I know I could not have made it through the rest of my semester without their support.”

After her mother’s passing, Andrews found herself redirecting the funds she saved for nursing school to help care for her younger brothers.

“Once again I was graciously granted a scholarship that allowed me to stay in school. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have been given and that would not be possible without the scholarship donors’ help.”

Soon after accepting her first job in the Pediatric Burn Unit at Children’s of Alabama, Andrews realized how much being a Bama nurse – many of CCN’s outstanding alums are now her coworkers at Children’s of Alabama.

“Kids are so resilient. I love seeing them feel better and their personalities come bursting back! Every day caring for my patients offers reassurance that I am in the right field. I could not imagine doing anything else.”

Andrews found an added bonus of being a Bama nurse – many of CCN’s outstanding alums are now her coworkers at Children’s of Alabama.

“Having other CCN graduates in the hospital has been so beneficial. My closest friend in nursing school is actually on our sister unit across the hall. If I had a question and someone on my unit was not available, I knew I could just call her and see if she had been through a similar situation. It has also helped me get plugged in and be more comfortable in a new city.”

When asked what advice she would offer current students, she said, "Listen to your instructors, ask lots of questions, and soak up as much information from them as you can. Each nurse brings such a different perspective to the table and that can help you in the future.”

INVESTING IN DREAMS

Drs. Terry and Linda Olivet have a long-standing relationship with The University of Alabama. Both graduated from UA—Linda in 1964 with her BS in Nursing, and Terry in 1965 with his BS in Chemistry. In 1967, Linda completed her MS in Nursing, and later earned her Doctorate at UAB. Terry completed his MD from UA in 1969. The couple then moved to Minnesota where Terry trained in general surgery and thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

In 1979, the Olivets returned to Tuscaloosa, where Terry set up the heart surgery program at DCH Regional Medical Center. In 1980, Linda began teaching at the Capstone College of Nursing. In the 1980s, Norma Mobley, the Dean of Nursing, spoke with the faculty about the need for nursing scholarships.
“Terry and I decided that we would like to start one. I value nursing education very much and had received scholarship assistance to go to school, and Terry has great respect and appreciation for the contributions nurses make to the care of patients.”

Each year, CCN holds a luncheon to bring together scholarship benefactors and recipients. For the Olivets, those chances to meet the students reinforce their decision to establish an endowed scholarship.

“I am so grateful to our nursing deans who have hosted the annual luncheons for the donors and recipients. It has given us a chance to personally know and encourage the students.”

When asked about the continued growth of her alma mater, Linda said, “I am delighted to see the growth of the College and the quality of the graduates. It is gratifying to see the expansion of the graduate programs in nursing as well. I see the acute need for nurses now and believe that is going to continue to be an issue. It is reassuring to see all the growth at Capstone to help meet the need for qualified nurses. Personally, Terry and I will likely continue to need their services more and more in the days ahead!”

CURRENTLY ENDOWED
Allison & Carlyle Chandler III Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Angelyn Adams Giambalvo Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Ann H. Banks Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Anne Evans Allen Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Annette Gann Jones Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Barbara C. Cleino Endowed Nurse Practitioner Scholarship
Barbara Hester Lowery Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Bethany Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Beulah Springer Bell & Robert Kirk Bell Endowed Scholarship
CCN Alumni Association Endowed Graduate Nursing Scholarship
CCN Alumni Association Endowed Nursing Scholarship
CCN Board of Visitors Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Carol Sayes Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
Carrie Harris Loper Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Cathy & Joe Watson Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Chloe Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Cindeloa Pearce Overton Endowed Scholarship
Conrad & Mary Bliss Endowed Scholarship
Constance & Anthony David Reinhardt Endowed Scholarship
David B. & Mary Beth Par fluor Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Dorothy Sturgis Sowell Endowed Scholarship
Edna C. Kais Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Evelyn E. Nall Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Evelyn Wurm Hardy Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund
Glenda & Wayne Hogg Endowed Scholarship
Gordon & Ann Rosen Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Encompass Health Corporation Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Hedy Hinton Waldrop Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Hill Crest Foundation Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
James Searcy Snow, Sr., M.D. Endowed Nursing Scholarship
James Allen Endowed Nursing Scholarship
James Allen Foundation Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Jennifer Lee Davis Memorial Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Joyce Cameron Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Katherine W. Hatcher Endowed Scholarship
Linda & Terry Olivet Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund
Mable Lamb Endowed Scholarship Fund
Major Charles D. Beard Jr. USAF Ret. Nursing Scholarship
Marilyn Kay Mitchell Memorial Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Nursing Alumni Assoc Endowed RN Mobility Nursing Scholarship
Peabody B. Mayfield Endowed Scholarship
Prevost Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Robert H. Jackson Endowed Scholarship
Stella Barnes Thornton Endowed Scholarship Fund
Thad J. Comilton Endowed Scholarship
The Lang Mann LaClair Endowed Scholarship
Thoracic & Cardiovascular Assoc of Tuscaloosa Endowed Scholarship
Tom & Tootie Bittrum Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Tuscaloosa County Medical Alliance Endowed Nursing Scholarship

TO BE ENDOWED
Becky Edwards Nursing Scholarship
Carolyn Dixon Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Cathryn Dunkin & Mark S. Boardman Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Doris Turner Osten Gift Annuity
Ernesto Perez Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Hank Elmore Nursing Scholarship
Joselyn C. Bacon Endowed Scholarship
Lillian Maria Fleming Laggan Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Marietta Stanton Endowed Graduate Nursing Scholarship
Norma K. Mobley Memorial Fund
Sara E. Barger Endowed Scholarship
Sara E. Barger Endowed Scholarship
Sara E. Barger Endowed Scholarship
Sara E. Barger Endowed Scholarship
Sara E. Barger Endowed Scholarship
Shaw Boyd Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Stella Barnes Thornton Endowed Scholarship Fund
The Lang Mann LaClair Endowed Scholarship
Thoracic & Cardiovascular Assoc of Tuscaloosa Endowed Scholarship
Tuscaloosa County Medical Alliance Endowed Nursing Scholarship

To contribute to a scholarship or support fund, visit give.ua.edu or contact Anita Hamlett (205) 348-9876.

1. Khristie Falls and scholarship donor, David Parklows. 2. Linda and Terry Olivet, Jack Kane and John and Rita Ferguson. 3. Newell and Anne Allen with RN Mobility student, Kaityn Hakel. 4. Lance and Hanna Jon Ingram and Greg and Jamee Saad with CCN faculty and students. 5. Kari Kinne and Richard Snow. 6. Beth, Jason and McKenna LaClair with scholarship recipient, Thuy Tuong.
When most of us think of nurses, we default to picturing them in a hospital or clinical setting. While over half of Alabama’s licensed nurses work in hospitals, nurses can be found in a number of settings, ranging from colleges or industry, to school, public or community health. In this article, we explore another path some nurses take—that of a nurse entrepreneur. Nurse entrepreneurs use their backgrounds in nursing to develop new business ventures within the health care industry. These nurses lean on their training and creative problem-solving skills to make strides in health care access, technology, patient care and much more.

CCN interviewed three of its graduates who struck out on their own, creating businesses that are making a positive impact on the health care industry and in their communities.

Amy Gillis Bogue graduated from CCN in 2006 and worked in the hospital realm for five years. She lived in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., and Bentonville, Ark., before deciding to move home and open Allegro Family Clinic, a clinic run by nurse practitioners. Bogue had a hand in planning everything, from choosing a name and setting hours of operation to solving staffing issues and even filling in as a nurse PRN. Bogue has now opened four clinics that include three MDs and 12 NPs and now works as the Executive Director of Allegro Family Clinic.

Philip Fikes graduated from CCN in 1998, and earned his Masters of Nurse Anesthesia from UAB in 2001. Fikes is the owner and president of Capstone Anesthesia Services, LLC, which is a group of advanced practice nurses (CRNAs) that provide anesthesia services for Alabama Heart and Vascular Medicine, as well as Plastic Surgery of Tuscaloosa. Fikes also works part time as a CRNA at Huntsville Hospital.

Joey Selleck graduated from CCN in 2015, and is the Director of Clinical Operations for Epicc Vascular Birmingham. Selleck has been a nurse for three years and has experience in emergency, post-anesthesia, and vascular access care. He is board certified with the American Vascular Association and is a member of the Comprehensive Vascular Access Team at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital as well as the Vascular Access Team at Children’s Hospital of Alabama. Selleck’s current role at Epicc Vascular involves treating patients in skilled nursing homes, as well as home health, who are in need of intravenous therapies including PICC line and midline treatments.
Fikes: I grew up with my extended family, and my grandfather was diabetic. At an early age, I learned to give him insulin injections.

At what point in your professional life did you decide to start a business? What were the main motivators behind that decision?

Selleck: After joining the nursing field I felt that there were many improvements that could be implemented to help improve patient care. My main motivation to start my own business was due to having the same patient admissions time and time again for complications that could have been avoided. My business was going to alleviate that deficiency, specifically helping patients who were needing constant vascular access.

Fikes: About 12 years into my career, I decided to start my own anesthesia business. I worked as a chief CRNA for approximately eight years managing day-to-day operations for a busy anesthesia group. I learned a lot about business, management and the health care industry. The Affordable Health care Act made positive changes for CRNA reimbursement and motivated me to act on being an independent business owner. With my former experience as a chief CRNA, it was a good time for me to start my own business.

Bogue: When we moved home, we started working in the family business. We already operated pharmacies and my grandfather had the idea to start a clinic. I was the one in the family with a medical background, so together we made it happen. There were a lot of learning curves and headaches along the way, but after a few years we finally have our groove.

What were your greatest obstacles in starting your business, and how did you overcome them?

Bogue: My grandfather is the true definition of an entrepreneur. He started his company from nothing which meant I had a great mentor to kick-start the clinic side. He has taught me so much, and we have a great time working together! I had no hesitations at all.

Selleck: The largest obstacle for me was convincing administrators and directors of nursing to change from their current practice and start using my service. Most people are afraid of change, and giving decision makers the confidence to start a new process requires extensive persistence. Once I was able to explain not only the clinical benefit, but the financial benefit, most administrators were willing to make the change.

Fikes: The greatest obstacle was myself. I had to lose the fear component and focus on the finite principles of starting a business. I hired a lawyer, an accountant, and used the best bank in town, Bryant Bank.

Looking back, is there any one thing you wish you had known before taking the leap?

Selleck: Looking back, I wish I had known the value of a day’s work outside of the hospital. For example, I felt that I wasn’t being productive just because I didn’t perform a procedure on a patient. Sometimes a long day of business calls and emails will result in more than you would expect. Not all work has to be clinical.

Bogue: I wish I had known more of the credentialing and billing side of a clinical operation. There were so many new things to learn that I would have been able to catch things on the front end rather than learn the hard way.

What motivated you to pursue a career in nursing?

Selleck: When I was a freshman in college I did not know what career I wanted to pursue. My older sister was in the nursing program at CCN and hearing her stories about how she would care for her patients and how she was able to see so many incredible people heal from severe illnesses made me want to pursue nursing and see how I could fit within that world.

Bogue: People were my motivation! I started as an accounting major. I remember walking across the Quad and thinking I wanted to be a nurse. I called my dad and asked him if he was okay with me switching majors because it would cause me to have an extra semester of school. I am so thankful for that decision because I have loved every step of my career!

Fikes: Lack of business training was my biggest hesitation for starting my own business. I was able to overcome the hesitation through consulting a good friend who had owned a business. He gave me great advice on business entrepreneurship and Godly words of wisdom. While consulting my friend, Wayne, we decided to become business partners.

What (if anything) made you hesitate to take the leap into business-ownership?

Bogue: What were the main motivators behind that decision?

Selleck: My nursing knowledge was primarily hospital based. I had to learn everything for the clinic side. I had no idea how credentialing, billing, or even the flow of a clinic worked. Initially, we hired a consultant to help and make sure we were set up correctly and abided by the law. The saying is true – you live and learn. We made our fair share of mistakes but would always learn from them and continue to grow.

Fikes: What motivated you to pursue a career in nursing?

Bogue: My grandfather is the true definition of an entrepreneur. He started his company from nothing which meant I had a great mentor to kick-start the clinic side. He has taught me so much, and we have a great time working together! I had no hesitations at all.

What were your greatest obstacles in starting your business, and how did you overcome them?

Bogue: What were the main motivators behind that decision?

Selleck: I was hesitant to start my business because I had no experience with marketing or sales. I decided that I needed to take a chance because my business idea made sense to me and to my clinicians. I ultimately decided that my idea was a win-win-win. The patient won, the facility won, and I won. That gave me the motivation to push forward.
Was there ever a moment you felt your background in nursing gave you an edge in creating your business?

Bogue: CCN is an excellent nursing program that prepared me for more than the nursing skill itself. Our program gave us an overview in different areas of nursing. My family has a business background, and I was able to contribute from the clinical side. My nursing background helped me in everything from hiring staff to really understanding the flow of both the nursing and administrative side of a clinic.

Fikes: My time at CCN definitely helped prepare me for my nursing career. I was prepared adequately for caring for a wide variety of patients. Early in my nursing career, I became a nurse manager in the Emergency Department at DCH. As a nurse manager, I learned about budgeting, profit and loss reports, supply cost, staffing demands, and day-to-day operations management. The nursing management experience gave me an edge on creating my business.

Selleck: CCN provides a broader view of nursing rather than exclusively patient care in the acute setting. Having seen health care in primary and tertiary care helped me see how acute care practice can benefit patients outside of the hospital. Thanks to CCN I felt that I was able to draw conclusions by bridging the gap between these two health care settings.

What advice would you offer a current nursing student? Or a nurse considering business-ownership?

Bogue: Nursing school is tough, but it is one of the most rewarding things I have accomplished – stick with it! Nursing is such a versatile career and there are many opportunities to fulfill your career goals. As for a nurse considering business ownership, find a mentor. Don’t try to recreate the wheel. Instead, take advice from someone who has been there, and be prepared to work very hard!

Fikes: As a nursing student, I would advise taking a few beginner business and accounting courses to determine if you enjoy business before starting a business. Business operation is a completely different language than health care. Learn the language first! If you decide that you like business, go for it. Consult with a trusted banker, accountant, and lawyer.

Selleck: My advice to all nursing professionals would be to pursue any idea that you think will make a difference for health care. If you can convince yourself that your idea is important than you can convince others as well.
Historically, the dean of the school would pin each graduate, but at CCN, each graduate chooses their own unique pinner. This allows the graduate to express their appreciation for someone who has played an essential part in helping them to succeed during this challenging time. Over the years, students have chosen family, friends, spouses, children, faculty members or role models. Faculty members often indicate how rewarding it is when a graduate makes that request.

Last year, when I was selected as a pinner by my student, I began to reflect on what this symbol represents each time a graduate dons his or her pin.

To your patient, the pin indicates you have been trained in leadership and professionalism. You are fair minded, a creative problem solver, an employee to invest in, and the kind of person others wish to have on their teams.

To your administrators and colleagues, the pin shows that you are trained in leadership and professionalism. You are fair minded, a creative problem solver, an employee to invest in, and the kind of person others wish to have on their teams.

To CCN alumni, the pin means that you were trained by faculty who required performance at the highest standards. The faculty who trained you are hardworking, dedicated, intelligent educators who love to nurse. You had to work very hard just to be accepted into this school, and once accepted, you realized that you could excel in areas that you thought were impossible. You were accepted by hospital staff as being the best of nursing students, and you will continue to be held in high regard as the best graduates.

Recently, I learned what the pin means to the family member of a patient. It meant that I could go home and shower, knowing this nurse will care for my loved one as their own. So, thank you to all alumni who continue to nurse the way you were trained and take pride in your pin. You are more than a licensed registered nurse; you are a Capstone College of Nursing graduate!

Pride in the Pin

"Working as an 'orderly' while in high school, I recall being impressed with the professionalism I observed in the nurses, including their uniforms, nursing caps and pins. Their pins especially spoke to me, in fact, I was interested in the story behind each nurses’ pin. I saw beaming pride as they told what their pin meant to them. When I received my first nursing pin, it was much more meaningful to me than the diploma. I felt it was my rite of passage, leaving the role of a student to that of a practicing nurse. Somehow it gave me strength and courage, in what really was a tentative time," said Dr. Titus Gambrell, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of St. Mary’s Health Care System. Gambrell earned his MSN from CCN in 2012, and continued his studies at UA to earn his DNP in 2016. Today, Gambrell proudly displays his nursing pins in his office.

“I love nursing and have great reverence for nurses that are practicing in clinical settings. The deciding factor for me in pursuing my DNP was the degree’s alignment with the practice of nursing. With most of my nursing experience being in a leadership role, I sometimes felt a little removed from what meant so much to me. I feltdisplaying my MSN and DNP nursing pins would keep me grounded in what should be most important to me in a role as a CNO: patients and nurses. I enjoy glancing over at them and getting to share my stories about my nursing pins with others...they are definitely conversation pieces.”
For over a decade, the United States has experienced a severe nursing shortage. This need for nurses will only strengthen as more nurses reach retirement age, all while an aging population contributes to high demand for health care. While colleges and universities consistently produce well-trained nurses, the supply simply cannot meet the demand.

“The number of nurses leaving the workforce each year has been growing steadily from around 40,000 in 2010 to a projected 80,000 by 2020. Meanwhile, the dramatic growth in nursing school enrollment over the last 15 years has begun to level off,” revealed economist David Auerbach in a 2015 issue of Science Daily.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing report on 2016-2017 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing, U.S. nursing schools turned away 64,067 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2016 due to insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, and clinical preceptors, as well as budget constraints. Almost two-thirds of the nursing schools responding to the survey pointed to a shortage of faculty and/or clinical preceptors as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into their programs.

The Capstone College of Nursing strives to address the local and national nursing shortage as best it can. While the college faces these same obstacles, it is taking steps to make a positive impact on the shortage by implementing a third admission cycle for both the RN-to-BSN and traditional BSN programs, developing a PhD program, expanding its Nurse Practitioner programs, and working toward a building expansion.
Educatng Nurses
Michelle Cheshire, EdD, RN
Melondie Carter, PhD, RN

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine set a specific nursing workforce goal for 2020: that 80 percent of the nation’s nurses have baccalaureate degrees. The IOM recognized that nurses prepared with Associate Degrees in Nursing are essential to the delivery of health care, but its recommendation is that for most nurses the ADN degree be a first step in career-long academic progression. That is why CCN’s RN Mobility Program is committed to doing its part to help achieve the goal of increasing the number of BSN prepared nurses in the workforce. RN Mobility launched its first fall admission in 2018, meaning it will now admit a RN to BSN cohort in the spring, summer and fall semesters. For the majority of our students, the BSN degree is a stepping stone to continue their education by seeking advanced degrees. There is growing evidence that patients in acute care settings benefit when nurses with higher degrees provide care. Many of our BSN graduates are enrolling in nurse practitioner programs, and these nurse practitioners are addressing the shortage of primary care and public health providers in many of our rural counties around the country. These nurses are also being prepared to care for an older population with more complex health care needs and to promote wellness across the lifespan. Students who graduate from our RN to BSN program are also going on to pursue doctoral degrees. Doctorally prepared nurses are able to teach the next generation of nurses, advance nurse-led science and discovery, and provide the nurse leadership the nation needs. Many of these nurses are seeking nurse educator positions to help meet the critical shortage of nursing faculty.

Additionally, CCN’s traditional BSN program will implement a third promotion opportunity to upper division nursing coursework in spring 2019. Previously, students have only been promoted in the summer and fall semesters; the new spring cohort will allow more students the opportunity to earn their BSN from The University of Alabama. Health care experts predict the current nursing shortage will continue for some time into the future and CCN strives to prepare as many highly qualified BSN graduates as possible to meet the needs of our community, state and country. Our faculty and staff work diligently to plan for the new cohort’s curriculum, class and clinical needs.

Creating Programs
Michele Montgomery, PhD, MPH, RN

One contributing factor to the nursing shortage is the lack of doctorally-prepared faculty available to prepare future nurses. In 2016, AACN found that 2,102 qualified applicants were turned away from doctoral programs due to a shortage of faculty and education sites. In order to prepare qualified nurses to become nursing faculty, more graduate programs are needed as well. CCN is developing a PhD program in collaboration with the University of Alabama in Huntsville’s College of Nursing. The Joint PhD in Nursing Science will focus on preparing nurses to assume faculty roles to engage in teaching and research. This program will have a unique focus on rural and medically-underserved populations which will benefit the people of Alabama, who reside in a predominately rural state. Attention to rural and medically underserved populations is important because access to care is impaired and health disparities exist. Research by nurse scientists is needed to provide evidence related to improvements in data measurement and rural-specific interventions to affect health outcomes, change public policy, and improve allocation of resources.

Currently the state of Alabama has only one PhD in Nursing program. Because doctoral programs are often limited in the number of students they can accept, this has hindered the potential growth of new nursing faculty in the state. The UA/UAB PhD program will offer another avenue to those nurses seeking a PhD, and will contribute to the growth in nursing faculty numbers. Additionally, because this will be an online program, nurses around the country seeking a quality PhD program will be able to attend. We are hopeful that many of the graduates of the program will choose to remain as faculty at CCN, and we can continue to increase our undergraduate enrollment.

Expanding Programs
Robin Lawson, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, NP-C, CCRN

Alabama’s number one health concern is access to care. The primary reason is that Alabama has a shortage of primary and mental health care providers, especially in rural areas. Research has shown that nurse practitioners are more likely than other primary care providers to practice in rural areas. To help address the problem and capitalize on our ability, CCN expanded its Nurse Practitioner program to include single role Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentrations in the Master’s of Science in Nursing program. CCN also developed a Post-Graduate Advanced Practice Registered Nurse certificate program for individuals with an
legislative session. Nurse practitioners can now sign medical forms associated with the treatment of their patients, which will lead to reduced wait times, decreased health care costs, and improved consumer access to care. Alabama’s outdated NP practice and licensure laws that limit the level of care NPs can deliver to patients must be amended, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine and the National Council for State Boards of Nursing. Alabama NPs must be able to practice to the full extent of their educational preparation and scope of practice in order to help meet the state’s growing primary and mental health care needs.

Making Room
Anita Hamlett, JD

The Capstone College of Nursing is currently housed in a 64,000-square-foot facility filled with the latest health care tech technology, from the expansive clinical laboratories with high fidelity human simulators to the digital classrooms with wireless connectivity. Built in 2010 as the “gateway” to The University of Alabama, it is the first building designed specifically for the education of nurses on the UA flagship campus.

However, as the number of qualified nursing applicants increased and programs expanded, the need for additional space to offer exceptional research and training opportunities has become clear.

Recognizing CCN’s continued growth and seeing the compelling and longstanding need for new facilities, The University of Alabama Board of Trustees has announced plans for a building expansion on the west side of the College’s existing facility, provided that substantial funds are initially secured from private donations.

The proposed three-story, 32,000-square-foot building expansion will significantly enrich the quality of academic space with two 150-seat multi-use classrooms, a home health care lab suite, a practicum lab and examination rooms. With the addition of more than 30 new offices for faculty and staff, the building expansion will address the critical shortage of office space in the current facility. The student experience will be greatly improved by the addition of a food service option on-site, more quiet study areas, collaborative work carrels, private space for academic and career advising, adequate conference rooms with Skype capability and a 2,400-square-foot outdoor terrace.

The CCN building expansion will also increase the applied learning space to help graduate the nurses desperately needed to increase both access to and quality of health care in the state of Alabama and beyond. The increased space will empower nursing faculty to continue to strive for instructional excellence and will further impact the College’s ability to support even more highly qualified candidates in achieving their dreams of becoming professional nurses.

The building expansion is expected to enhance the functionality of the existing facility, allow for significant growth in enrollment and expand academic offerings by adding new specialty concentrations and degree programs.

Fundraising for this project will be underway soon, providing naming opportunities throughout the new addition. This is a great way to create a legacy for you or a family member. If you would like to learn more about how to help make the expansion a reality, contact Anita Hamlett, Director of Development at ahamlett@ua.edu or (205) 348-9876.
Class of 1981
Gwen Holder, MSN, RN, was recently awarded Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Adrienne Ames Transformational Leadership Award.

Class of 1982
Joanne Davis, DNP, ANP-BC graduated with her DNP from UA in 2017; her DNP scholarly project was related to skin tears in the elderly. Davis recently published an article, “STAMP out skin tears: Skin tear assessment, management, and prevention” in the June 2017 issue of American Nurse Today. Additionally as a Nurse Practitioner at the Tuscaloosa VA, has developed a STAMP Out Skin Tears program which has been chosen by the VA Innovators Network as a spark level innovation to be funded for implementation.

Class of 1984
Julie Sanford, DNS, RN, FAAN, was selected to provide Senate testimony in support of Title VIII programs for nursing workforce development. She was the only RN chosen as a witness in this hearing.

Class of 1994
Betsy Bayley Van Etten, RNC, BSN, Class of 1994 was the only RN chosen as a witness in this hearing.

Class of 1997
Becky Owings, EdD, RN, FNP-BC, was awarded the CCN Board of Visitors Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. The award recognizes exemplary faculty members who by action or idea contribute to UA’s mission of teaching, research and service and who, at all levels, have performed in an exemplary manner, above and beyond their normal duties, to further the mission of The University of Alabama.

Class of 1998
Stephanie Massey, MSN, RN received the Capstone College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes a distinguished CCN graduate who has demonstrated continuous and exemplary contributions to the profession of nursing and health care.

Class of 1999
Leslie Cole, DNP, RN, was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Practice Award which recognizes and honors Capstone College of Nursing faculty who have demonstrated exemplary and meritorious faculty practice achievements.

Class of 2010
Abby Horton, MSN, RN, was awarded the Earnestine Tucker Opening Doors Inclusion and Engagement Award which recognizes an individual who has opened doors in health care for others.

Brittany Hughes Justice, MSN, recently began working at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta as an Advanced Clinical Nurse Educator after working as an RN at Emory University Hospital in the Cardiac ICU.

Class of 2011
Ashley Herring Thomas, BSN, RN, MSN, AGACNP-BC, graduated from UAB in August of 2017 with her Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner degree and is now working as an AGACNP at Grandview Medical Center with a hospitalist.

Tracey Hydrick May, CRNA, and Newton Tinsley, CRNA, graduated from Samford in May with their Master’s in Nurse Anesthesia.

Amy S. Bailey, RN, BSN, CNOR graduated with her MSN for Nurse Administration in August 2018 and recently passed her Certified Nurse Operating Room Certification. Bailey has been employed at DCH in the Operating Room since September 1999. She and her husband Lance have four children, ages 15, 12, 7 and 3.

Class of 2012
Cara Nachtman Gifford, MSN, AGACNP, just celebrated her five year anniversary working for Emory Health care in the surgical/transplant ICU. During those five years, she has been able to care for Ebola patients, and study at Emory University for her MSN. She now works as a acute care NP at Emory’s St Joseph’s Hospital. Nachtman said, “I’m grateful for the fundamental nursing skills CCN taught me! All of this would not be possible without that knowledge!”

Katie Echols Perry, CRNA graduated from Samford in May with her Master’s in Nurse Anesthesia.

Class of 2013
Tori Street Reyer, CRNA graduated from Samford in May with her Master’s in Nurse Anesthesia.

Class of 2014
Holly Schiavone, MSN, RN, CPNP, CNL, ARNP, graduated from Drexel University in June 2017 with a Post Master’s Certificate (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner). She is currently a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with the Population Health Service at Nemours A. I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del.

Class of 2016
Meghan Graham, RN, is working at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, N.Y. as a pediatric oncology nurse.

Bailey Moore, RN, CCRN-CSC, recently passed both the CCRN exam and the CSC specialty exam. Only around 2,000 nurses in the country have the CSC.

Whitney Anne Cannon, MSN, BSN, NP-C, has been working as a NP with an electrophysiologist in Tuscaloosa after graduating with her MSN from UA.

Titus Gambrell, DNP, MSN, RN was recently named Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of St. Mary’s Health Care System after serving in the role on an interim basis for several months.

Class of 2017
Emily Carter, RN, BSN, started her first job on the Pulmonary Care Unit at Children’s of Alabama.

Angelina Szuch, DNP, APRN, was recently named Director of Complex Population Health Services with UnitedHealth Group in Nashville, Tenn.
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Congratulations to our December 2017 graduates!

CCN Ambassadors Jeremy James, Michalyn Worthy, Samantha Gleason and Leanne Booker at Honors Day.

Abby Horton surrounded by some of her students at CCN’s annual Honors Day celebration.

Cathy Boardman, Phyllis Grant, Dr. Melondie Carter and Anita Hamlett congratulate Dr. Becky Owings on her award.

Dr. Alice March, Dr. Safiya George, Celeste Burnum and Dr. Suzanne Prevost following the Burnum Award presentation.

Wyndy Looney, Janet S. Awtrey Award recipient, with her family at CCN’s annual Honors Day.

Dr. Cassandra Ford, Dr. JoAnn Oliver and Dr. Betty Key at CCN’s 2018 Sigma Theta Tau International Induction.

Delores Cole, Anita Hamlett and Mary Frances Slaughter at the Spring Board of Visitors Welcome Dinner.

CCN’s DNP students were on campus in April for the annual DNP Intensive.
Congratulations to CCN’s August 2017 DNP class!

Congratulations to CCN’s August 2017 MSN graduates!

Congratulations to our May 2018 graduates!

CCN hosted members of UA’s Black Alumni Association during UABAA’s 55th Anniversary Celebration weekend.

CCN’s Brian Dickson and Leigh Dickson at Nursing Night at the Joe. Brian threw out the first pitch!

Dr. Betty Key, Dr. Mercy Mumba, Dr. Becky Owings and Dr. Josh Eyer at the May 2018 Commencement.

Dr. Mary Ann Kelley and student speaker Taylor Bushnell at the May 2018 Pinning Ceremony.

CCN hosted members of UA’s Black Alumni Association during UABAA’s 55th Anniversary Celebration weekend.

Congratulations to CCN’s August 2017 DNP class!

Dr. Amy Beasley and her class on the first day of clinicals in spring 2018.

CCN grads Lauren Stiles, Alicia Wright and Linda Hildebrand at CCN’s Alumni Gathering in Huntsville.

Congratulations to CCN’s August 2017 MSN graduates!

Dr. Mary Ann Kelley and student speaker Taylor Bushnell at the May 2018 Pinning Ceremony.

Congratulations to our May 2018 graduates!

The University of Alabama®
Capstone College of Nursing

2505
TOTAL ENROLLMENT
FALL 2018

99,630
TOTAL STUDENT CLINICAL HOURS
MAY 2018 BSN GRADUATES

2072
ENROLLED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

TRADITIONAL BSN STUDENTS
RN TO BSN NURSING STUDENTS

433
ENROLLED GRADUATE STUDENTS

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATION

103
SCHOLARLY ARTICLES
PUBLISHED, ACCEPTED OR IN-PRESS

$2.5 MILLION
GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

$515,000
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING

BY THE NUMBERS

CCN STUDENTS’ HOME STATES

UNDERGRADUATE
GRADUATE

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL #1
Provide high quality undergraduate and graduate nursing education.

Undergraduate Programs

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
Students in CCN’s BSN program experience individualized attention from instructors in classes, labs, and clinical settings. Networked computers, multi-media classrooms, human patient simulators, and the learning resource center provide state of the art technology needed for a quality nursing education.

The ability to learn and practice nursing skills in a simulated environment is right here - all within the heart of Alabama's beautiful residential campus. Students in the traditional BSN program are required to complete 810 hours in a clinical setting over the course of their curriculum. Excellent clinical facilities, from hospitals to home care agencies, health departments to public schools, are available in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding communities. In these settings students will learn to think, act, and practice as a nurse.

Leaders in health care have long recognized the nursing program at The University of Alabama as graduating students with a strong academic background and a well-rounded clinical experience. Students graduate with more than a degree; they have experience – a combination that opens doors to numerous career opportunities. CCN alumni are actively recruited by health care agencies in Alabama and across the nation.

The BSN curriculum plan consists of lower and upper division courses. During the first four semesters of the curriculum plan, designated as lower division, students take required sciences, humanities, and other courses that help to prepare them to function as a professional nurse. Following those first four semesters, students apply for admission into the upper division program which consists of five semesters of nursing courses that make up the professional component of the curriculum, with some that include theory and clinical lab components. Courses focus on providing students with essential knowledge and skills to provide care to persons in a variety of health care settings. Nursing courses are designed to build on preceding semesters; foster the development of critical thinking and progressively independent decision making; and provide collaborative opportunities for students with other health care providers. Therefore, students must successfully complete all clinical and non-clinical courses in a semester before progressing to the next semester coursework. In addition, a variety of nursing elective courses, including opportunities for independent study, are offered at different times throughout the curriculum.

In January 2019, CCN will implement a third admission cycle for the BSN program.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 1,745

RN TO BSN AND RN TO BSN/MSN
The Capstone College of Nursing offers two degree options for RN students. RNs that hold an associate degree or hospital diploma in nursing may enroll in either the RN to BSN or the RN to BSN/MSN track. Both programs of study are designed to allow nurses to continue working while completing the requirements for an advanced degree. All of the nursing courses are taught online and every effort is made to allow students to complete the clinical activities in an area close to their home.

Following completion of the core requirements, RN to BSN students may complete the nursing courses in three semesters of full-time study. In August 2018, CCN implemented a third admission plan of study is available for students who need a slower pace due to multiple demands on their time.

The RN to BSN/MSN track provides an accelerated option for students who choose to pursue an advanced degree as a nurse case manager or a clinical nurse leader. This track requires two years of nursing courses (seven semesters) following completion of the core requirements. The BSN degree is awarded at the completion of the fourth semester. The MSN degree is awarded at the end of the final semester following completion.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 227

Master of Science in Nursing Concentrations

CLINICAL NURSE LEADER
The Clinical Nurse Leader program is a distance-based Master of Science in Nursing with all courses offered online. The CNL is a master’s prepared generalist, accountable for clinical and health care environmental outcomes. This concentration has grown tremendously this year and students continue to implement creative quality improvements in their clinical setting as part of the required Clinical Immersion Project. Some of these implementations are screening for suicide risk, screening for substance abuse, sepsis screening, mobility intervention for hospitalized adults with chronic lung disease, and a nurse-driven protocol for Foley catheter removal (a source of many infections in hospitalized individuals).

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing developed a set of Recommended Clinical Practice experiences for the CNL student which have been incorporated in both clinical courses in the curriculum. Curriculum revisions are planned to ensure CNL students have multiple didactic and clinical courses throughout the program of study.

The revisions will not add clinical hours for students, but, instead will help students assimilate the CNL role over a longer period of time, beginning with the first semester in the program.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 63

NURSE ADMINISTRATOR
The Nurse Administrator program is a distance-based Master of Science in Nursing with all courses offered online. Incorporating the American Organization of Nursing Leadership’s core competencies and the American Nurse’s Association’s Standards of Practice for Nurse Administrators in Professional Practice, the Nurse Administrator program of study was developed with two primary goals in mind for the nurse leader: to provide current and future nurse leaders with the knowledge, competencies, and resources to successfully meet the challenges of a volatile health care marketplace to promote patient centric care and quality outcomes through evidence-based practice; and to arm them with the knowledge, competencies, and resources to be the gateway between patient care and patient outcomes and health care finance and policy.

Our expectation is that graduates from the Nurse Administrator program complete the ANCC Nurse Executive certification upon graduation from the program. This program has been popular with MSN students since inception. We have seen a greater than 200 percent increase in enrollment from 2016 to 2018.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 44

CASE MANAGEMENT
The Case Management program is a distance-based Master of Science in Nursing with all courses offered online. This program prepares nurses to assume leadership positions in health care administration and to coordinate and administer case management services at the macrosystems level. Graduates of this program will be able to practice in a variety of settings, assuming leadership positions in health care organizations.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 31
DUAL NURSE PRACTITIONER
The Dual Nurse Practitioner program is an online Master of Science in Nursing degree with specialization in the Dual Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner. This dual NP concentration prepares students to sit for both the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – across the lifespan and the Family Nurse Practitioner national board certification exams.
CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 30

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
The Family Nurse Practitioner concentration prepares students for certification as an FNP. Students complete coursework online and attend two on-campus sessions (one day each) during their program of study.
CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 58

PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER
The PMHNP concentration prepares students for certification as a PMHNP – across the lifespan. Students complete coursework online and attend two on-campus sessions (one day each) during their program of study.
CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 9

Post-Graduate Certifications
NURSE PRACTITIONER POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
The nurse practitioner Post-graduate Certificate program builds on the graduate level nursing competencies and knowledge base. Nurses who are already prepared at either the master’s or doctorate level for other roles may apply for the post-graduate certificate program with advanced specialization as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). The FNP concentration prepares students for certification as an FNP and the PMHNP concentration prepares students for certification as a PMHNP – across the lifespan. Students in the Post-Graduate Certificate program will enroll in existing NP population-focused courses, but they will not be required to complete master’s graduate nursing core courses, such as informatics or theory, or direct care core courses (e.g., advanced physiology/pathophysiology (across the lifespan), advanced health/physical assessment (across the lifespan), and advanced pharmacology) if they were completed in a prior master’s or doctorate program. The Nurse Practitioner Post-Graduate Certificate program was approved for full initial accreditation through 2023.
CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 13

POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATE IN CASE MANAGEMENT
The Master of Science in Nursing program, upon which the post-master’s track is based, is designed to prepare advanced practice nurses at the master’s level to practice as case managers for rural populations. Nurses who are already prepared at the master’s level for roles such as nurse practitioner, clinical specialist, or nurse administrator and who need case management knowledge and expertise to enact the nurse case manager role can apply for the post-master’s track. Students in the post-master’s track will enroll in the existing case management courses, but they will not be required to complete the nursing core courses, such as research and theory, if they were completed in the master’s program.

Doctoral Programs
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
The DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral degree that prepares graduates to function at the highest level of specialized nursing practice or to assume leadership positions in health care. Graduates of the DNP program focus on providing care with an emphasis on improving quality and access to underserved and diverse populations.
In May 2018, CCN received official notice from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that its independent DNP program was approved for full initial accreditation through 2023. Additionally, Dr. Alice March received a grant to provide funding through the Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program to DNP students who were admitted for Fall 2018 who are already in a teaching position and committed to service payback.
CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 181

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING
In June, CCN received final approval from the Board of Trustees and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its PhD program, developed in collaboration with the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The PhD in Nursing program will prepare nurses to assume faculty roles in teaching and research. This joint program will have a unique focus on rural and medically underserved populations. Attention to rural and medically underserved populations is important because access to care is impaired and health disparities exist.

The UA/UAH PhD program will offer an avenue to nurses seeking a PhD and will contribute to the growth in nursing faculty numbers. Additionally, because this will be an online program, nurses around the country seeking a quality PhD program will be able to attend. CCN will move forward with planning for implementation in Summer 2019.
The Office of Scholarly Affairs at the Capstone College of Nursing supports all external and internal grant submissions and reports directly to the Dean of Nursing.

**MISSION AND VISION**

The Office of Scholarly Affairs supports the overall mission of the Capstone College of Nursing to promote the health and well-being of the people of the State of Alabama, the nation, and the world through nursing education, research, scholarship, and service. OSA supports CCN’s vision to be nationally recognized as an innovative and inclusive environment for transforming nursing education, research, scholarship, and service.

**PROVIDED SERVICES**

- Develop/support faculty in developing all stages of research, including developing a research trajectory and designing and funding research and service projects
- Oversee and support grant proposal development and submission
- Review drafts during preparation and submission of proposals for research, training, and program grants
- Provide support for manuscript preparation and submission for publication
- Provide faculty, staff and students with current information regarding funding opportunities, priorities, deadlines, and so forth from federal agencies and foundations
- Ensure resources and information are provided for manuscript writing tools and resources
- Develop and provide organized professional development activities regarding research and grant development based on identified needs
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with other individuals, departments, colleges or institutions and communities relative to research or grants
- Provide reports about scholarly accomplishments
- Support faculty and staff with managing grants and contracts and their budgets
- Advocate on behalf of faculty and staff with central administration regarding grant and/or research related activity
- Act as liaison and administrative support for IRB submission

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


Cheshire, M., Strickland, H. (2018). Distance learning strategies in RN to BSN programs: Advancing cultural competence of RNs in providing end-of-life care. Teaching and Learning in Nursing. [Accepted 3/5/18]


PUBLICATIONS (IN-PRESS/ACCEPTED)

Cheshire, M., Strickland, H. (2018). Distance learning strategies in RN to BSN programs: Advancing cultural competence of RNs in providing end-of-life care. Teaching and Learning in Nursing. [Accepted 3/5/18]


ENCOURAGING STUDENT RESEARCHERS

The CCN Research Society, which officially began Spring 2017, continues to work toward recruiting new members and faculty research mentors. The purpose of this club is to increase student interest in, and knowledge of, undergraduate research. The ultimate goal is increasing the number of students who develop their own research projects. Students in both lower division and upper division are encouraged to join the club.

Meetings were previously held once a month during the fall and spring semesters. During these meetings, several faculty presented their research and gave insight into doctoral degrees. In addition to club meetings, members attended the CCN Research Colloquia and worked with faculty on a number of research projects. Senior members of the CCN Research Society who attend meetings regularly will wear an honor cord to recognize their membership in this club at graduation.

OFFICE OF SCHOLARLY AFFAIRS

Safiya George, PhD
Assistant Dean for Research

Lauren Calhoun
Contracts and Grants Specialist

Joshua Eyer, PhD
Methodologist/Statistician

Soina Huff
Program Assistant

Lacye Taylor
Scientific Writer

Lauren Neal
Hunter Threadgill
Graduate Research Assistants
The objectives set forth to achieve the third goal of CCN’s Strategic Plan include the implementation of strategies to promote diversity among faculty, staff, and student populations, cultural immersion learning opportunities for faculty and student participation, and diversity and inclusivity development opportunities for faculty, staff, and student participation.

The Capstone College of Nursing’s Committee on Inclusivity was developed under the visionary leadership of Dean Suzanne Prevost in January 2016 as a way to meet each of those objectives. The members of COI are charged with promoting an inclusive environment at the Capstone College of Nursing. Abby Horton currently serves as the Chair of our committee and through her work and leadership, COI has become one of the leading champions of diversity and inclusion on campus. We are committed to creating and sustaining a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming environment in which every student can thrive at The Capstone College of Nursing.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Capstone College of Nursing’s Committee on Inclusivity supports The University of Alabama’s efforts to maintain academic excellence by fostering a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment for all faculty, staff, and students.

VISION STATEMENT:
To promote multicultural awareness and an academic climate that celebrates diversity and inclusion of ALL faculty, staff, and students; one based on RESPECT, APPRECIATION, and RECOGNITION of individual differences and their contributions to the institution.

COI IN ACTION
Each year, CCN’s COI hosts and participates in a number of events and initiatives to achieve its mission and vision, including:

- Sponsor Lunch-N-Learns in partnership with the UA Crossroads Heritage Months.
- Host Semester Movie Nights featuring movies with themes of diversity and inclusivity.
- Conduct COI Climate Surveys for Graduate & Undergraduate students.
- COI Monthly Presentations on the LCD panel for Faculty, Staff, and Students.
- Sponsor Harbor Trainings and Safe Zone Trainings.
- Sponsor UA Crossroads Practicing Inclusiveness Engagement Workshop and Ice Cream Social during CCN’s Upper Division Orientation.

We asked some of the men of CCN, “What led you to pursue a degree in Nursing?”

Brian Dickson, MSN, RN, CPEN
CCN Instructor

“I chose a degree in nursing to be challenged to make a difference in people’s lives every single day and because of the ability to be the best part of someone’s worst day. I chose nursing for the opportunity to care for others regardless of race or religion, and the satisfaction of being able to help others during illness and difficult times. I chose nursing to be able to engage and enrich the lives of others through compassionate and un waiversing care.”

Johnny Tice, DNP, MA, CRNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC
Clinical Assistant Professor

“In childhood we are always asked, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ My answer to this question changed several times over the years... I wanted to be a policeman, a firefighter, a physician. During my high school years it became clear that I wanted to do something health care related, but I wasn’t quite sure where in health care I fit. During my junior year of high school I attended two health care summits that allowed participants to see what life would be like as a physician, and what life was like as a nurse. These experiences showed me the endless possibilities that a career in nursing provided. I like to say that I did not choose nursing, but rather that nursing chose me. My nursing career has been nothing less than amazing and at this point it is safe to say I am vested.”

Jeremy James
5th Semester Nursing Student
CCN Ambassador

“The reason why I chose nursing was to serve and help others that may be going through their deepest and darkest experiences.”
The fourth goal in the Capstone College of Nursing strategic plan is to “participate as teachers and role models for healthy living and work-life balance.” One of the ways CCN has set forth to achieve this goal is to provide activities for work-life balance that increase sense of community and enhance collegial relationships.

One event in particular has become an annual favorite of the College. In 2016, a few members of CCN’s faculty and staff wanted to organize a “field day” as a way to celebrate the end of the spring semester; little did they know, they were creating an event that would encapsulate both health promotion and collegial and community relationships among CCN’s faculty and staff. That first field day was a resounding success, giving faculty and staff an opportunity to cap off the semester with celebration, friendly competition, physical activity and team and relationship building.

Now, having held three CCN Field Days, its original organizers appreciate what the event has become; it serves as a yearly opportunity for teams to unite in choosing team names and costumes; and, perhaps most importantly, has provided an outlet for CCN’s employees to get to know each other better.

“Field Day was great! I learned new things about my colleagues, and was able to put familiar names with smiling faces,” said Lauren Calhoun, who joined CCN as its Contracts and Grants Specialist in January 2018.

The theme for the 2018 CCN Field Day was “Tropic Like it’s Hot” with teams choosing luau-themed costumes and names. The activities ranged from relay races to pineapple ring toss to coconut bowling. Teams were cheered on by CCN’s volunteer cheerleaders throughout the competition, and the event culminated in a faculty and staff cookout.

CCN Field Day has become a favorite event among faculty and staff, we can’t wait to see what’s in store for Field Day 2019!
A dedicated nurse, decorated veteran, nurse educator, researcher and administrator received the 2018 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award, one of the highest honors bestowed on professors at The University of Alabama. On April 9, 2018, UA presented Dr. Marietta Stanton, professor and former assistant dean for graduate programs at the Capstone College of Nursing, with the prestigious Burnum award.

“Dr. Stanton has been a faculty member here since 1999. In that time she has become a quintessential example of a highly respected and productive faculty member who has been an active leader in educating graduate nurses,” said Dr. Alice March, faculty member and former CCN Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award, established by Celeste Burnum and the late Dr. John F. Burnum, is given annually to recognize and promote excellence in research, scholarship and teaching. The award committee, composed of former winners of the Burnum Award, screens nominees and forwards its two top nominees to the UA president, who, in turn, selects the annual winner.

Described as an educator who empowers students to soar to new heights, Dr. Stanton has made a powerful impact on nursing and nursing education at state, national and international levels.

“Marietta Stanton is an outstanding educator, nurse administrator, leader and researcher. She is a force to be reckoned with and a change agent in classroom, clinical and research settings,” wrote Dr. Ernesto Perez, former doctoral student at the Capstone College of Nursing. “Her way of empowering, motivating and supporting others is unique and humbling. She cares about her students and always inspires them to do better on behalf of patients, families, communities and the nursing profession. I feel that I have been blessed to have her teachings influence my nursing career.”

Dr. Stanton spent the early years of her nursing career in service to our country. Commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army in 1977, she served at several military hospitals including the Walter Reed Medical Center. She came to Tuscaloosa in 1999 as Commander of the 75th Combat Support Hospital. Dr. Stanton is the recipient of a number of military awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit.

During her time at CCN, Dr. Stanton has celebrated much success, and was instrumental in the implementation of the school’s graduate programs. She played a primary role in both the Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice program with UAH and UAB, and the Doctor of Education program in collaboration with UA’s College of Education.

“Her journey has not been without challenges. For example, in March 2004, she was called to active duty to develop a nationwide case management model. At that time she was one of only five regional coordinators who developed and implemented this service. Not only has Dr. Stanton persevered over the challenges of balancing university service with military service as a reservist, she has catapulted the College of Nursing forward since the very beginning of her time here,” Dr. March wrote.

Her practice and research address three primary areas: case management, nurse veterans, and nursing practice and education. Dr. Stanton’s expertise in these areas is demonstrated through her extensive body of scientific publications and contributions to books. She has more than 40 years of experience conducting large scale, collaborative training and research projects in civilian and military health care systems.

Dr. Stanton’s most recent research has focused on post traumatic stress, depression, and other psychological disorders. She is recognized for developing a case management model to provide support for returning reservist soldiers that has been implemented nationwide.

Dr. Stanton has donated funds to create the Marietta Stanton Endowed Graduate Nursing Scholarship. If you would like to contribute to this fund, visit give.ua.edu or contact Anita Hamlett for more information, (205) 348-9876.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Dr. Kristi Acker received the "2017 Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Educator Regional Award for West Alabama" from the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama.

Dr. Susan Appel was appointed Chair of the Behavioral Science Clinical Committee of the American Heart Association, and was also appointed to SNRS Awards Committee (2017-2018).

Dr. Shameka Cody was awarded third place in the poster contest at UAB’s 13th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium.

Dr. Angela Collins-Yoder was appointed to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses National Task Force Analysis of Critical Care Certification, 2018-2019. She was also appointed to the continuing education approval committee for the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses for 2017-2019.

Dr. Heather Carter-Templeton was awarded the International Nursing Academy of Nursing Editors Mentoring Editor Award.

Dr. Joshua Eyer was selected as a 2018 President’s Faculty Research Awardee at UA.

Dr. Safiya George was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and was selected for the RWJF Global Learning Exchange in Cuba Leadership Program.

Dr. Robin Lawson was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. Megan Lippe was selected as a Spring 2018 Learning In Action Fellow by UA’s Office of Academic Affairs and as an End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Award Winner for 2017. She was also appointed as the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Charter Review Task Force Member as well as the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Conference Planning Task Force Committee Chair. Additionally, Dr. Lippe was appointed as the Sigma Theta Tau Epsilon Omega Governance Committee Chair.

Dr. Alice March was appointed editor of “Selected Issues in Female Health across the Lifespan” in Nursing Clinics of North America.

Dr. Mercy Mumba was selected for the 2017 Health Disparities Research Training Award Certification Program from UAB.

Dr. JoAnn Oliver was the Conference Co-Chair of the 6th International African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium Conference on October 6-9, 2017 in Miami, Florida. She was also elected as president of the Board of Directors for Susan G. Komen North Central Alabama.

Dr. Todd Smith was selected for the UA 2017-2018 Junior Investigator Program.

Dr. Theresa Wadas was selected for the 2017 Health Disparities Research Training Award Certification Program from UAB.
KATHLEEN GUNTER, MSN, RN, CCRN-CMC
Kathleen Gunter is a full-time clinical instructor at CCN. She received her BSN from CCN in 2010, and MSN in nursing education from Samford University in 2017. Gunter’s nursing career began in 2010 as a bedside nurse in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. From 2013 to 2016, she worked part-time as a clinical instructor while maintaining bedside practice in the ICU. While pursuing her MSN, she became the education coordinator at a local hospital. Gunter is pursuing her Certified Nurse Educator certification and currently holds CCRN-CMC certifications as an adult Critical Care and Cardiac RN through the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

LAUREN CALHOUN
Lauren Calhoun joins CCN as its grants and contract specialist. She received an MPA from Eastern Kentucky University after completing her undergraduate studies at Emory & Henry College. She has seven years of experience in proposal development with both non-profit organizations and government agencies. In her role with the Capstone College of Nursing, she provides support for proposal submissions.

MICHAEL CALLIHAN, PHD, MSN, RN
Dr. Calihan is an assistant professor at CCN. He received his ADN (2008) and BSN (2012) from Miami University of Ohio. He earned his MSN in nursing education from Gonzaga University in 2014 and his PhD in nursing from the University of Kentucky in 2018. Dr. Calihan is a US Navy veteran, has been an emergency department nurse and worked as a firefighter/paramedic throughout his career.

SHAMEKA L. CODY, PHD, AGNP-C
Dr. Shameka Cody joins CCN as an assistant professor. She is a board-certified Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner. She obtained her MSN in 2012 and her PhD in 2017 from UAB and completed her undergraduate studies at Jacksonville State University and Jefferson State Community College. Her primary research interests include cognition and sleep quality in adults aging with HIV. She was recognized as a Sigma Theta Tau Rising Star in 2013. Dr. Cody’s research experience as a Gladys Farmer Colvin Fellow and doctoral scholar led to 18 publications including a book chapter and web publication. She has presented at several local and international conferences including the National Academy of Neuropsychology in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Her clinical expertise includes adult primary care, infectious disease, international travel medicine, and women’s health. She teaches Adult Health in the undergraduate program.

FRANCES HARDIN-FANNING, PHD, RN
Dr. Hardin-Fanning joins CCN as the Saxon Endowed Chair in Rural Nursing and associate professor. Prior to joining CCN, she was a tenured associate professor at the University of Kentucky where she served in multiple leadership roles. Dr. Hardin-Fanning completed her associate degree in nursing from Morehead State University in 1997, where she received the Outstanding ADN Graduate award. She completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Kentucky in 2005 and received the University of Kentucky College of Nursing Alumni Association graduate student award. She completed her PhD in nursing and received the James S. Brown Graduate Student award for her dissertation research related to nutrition in Eastern Kentucky in 2011. In 2016, she completed a Graduate Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science Research Skills.

CHERYL HINES, EDD, RN, CRNA
Dr. Hines joins CCN as a full-time clinical assistant professor. She received her BSN from Jacksonville State University, her MSN in anesthesia from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and her EdD from The University of Alabama. Dr. Hines began working at CCN as a part-time instructor in 2014, and transitioned to full time in 2018. She has been a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist for 35 years and continues to maintain her certification. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and Sigma Theta Tau. Dr. Hines’s research interests include educational strategies to support teaching and learning related to clinical judgment and the care of the complex client.

AMY LEE, DNP, ARNP, WHNP-BC
Dr. Amy Davis Lee is a new clinical associate professor and women’s health nurse practitioner. She received her BSN at CCN in 1990, her MSN from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1995, and her DNP from Chatham University in 2013. Prior to becoming an advanced practice nurse, Dr. Lee was an obstetrics nurse in labor, delivery, recovery, and post-partum settings. Dr. Lee has been an advanced practice provider for 23 years with the past 16 years at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where she also held a joint appointment in the School of Nursing. Her clinical focus and expertise are in family planning, emergency gynecology, intimate partner violence, and general gynecology. She is excited to return to her home state and her alma mater.

SHEILA MULLENIX
Sheila Mullenix serves as administrative secretary to the senior associate dean of academic programs. She is responsible for a wide variety of administrative tasks including collecting data and preparing College reports. She started her career at the University 13 years ago in the Financial Affairs Division. She transferred to Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in January 2017 and then joined the Capstone College of Nursing in April 2018.

RACHAEL MUMBOWER, PHD, BSN
Dr. Rachael Mumbower is a new assistant professor at CCN. She received a BS in honors from The University of Alabama where she was a Presidential Scholar. Dr. Mumbower earned a PhD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she received funding as a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar. Her clinical expertise is in critical care and emergency nursing. Dr. Mumbower’s research is focused on the health of community-dwelling survivors of traumatic brain injury and their caregivers.

Dr. Shameka Cody joins CCN as an assistant professor. She is a board-certified Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner. She obtained her MSN in 2012 and her PhD in 2017 from UAB and completed her undergraduate studies at Jacksonville State University and Jefferson State Community College. Her primary research interests include cognition and sleep quality in adults aging with HIV. She was recognized as a Sigma Theta Tau Rising Star in 2013. Dr. Cody’s research experience as a Gladys Farmer Colvin Fellow and doctoral scholar led to 18 publications including a book chapter and web publication. She has presented at several local and international conferences including the National Academy of Neuropsychology in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Her clinical expertise includes adult primary care, infectious disease, international travel medicine, and women’s health. She teaches Adult Health in the undergraduate program.
The Capstone College of Nursing has a long-standing tradition of providing an exceptional nursing education. We prepare future generations of caring nurses with the help of alumni and friends, many of whom have provided generous gifts through their wills or other estate plans. For more information about giving opportunities, visit giving.ua.edu/giftplanning, contact Anita Hamlett at 205-348-9876, or call our Planned Giving staff at 888-875-4438.

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ABBY PARKER
Abby Parker joins CCN as the clinical program assistant. In this role, she initiates and processes student placements for the RN-to-BSN program and all graduate programs. Parker has worked for The University of Alabama for two years. Prior to joining CCN, she worked in the College of Human Environmental Sciences where she was employed in the Dean’s Office. Parker is a University of Alabama alumni, having received her BS in human environmental science in 2007.

JESSICA RICHARDSON, MA
Jessica Richardson is an academic advisor in CCN’s Office of Student Services. In this position, Richardson advises incoming freshmen, transfer students and post graduate secondary students in the lower division of CCN. She graduated from UA in 2009 with a BS in biology, and in 2011 with her MA in secondary education.

ROSEMARY RUSSELL, MA
Rosemary Russell joins CCN as the communications specialist and events coordinator. She earned her Bachelors in communication & information sciences in 2013 and Masters in advertising and public relations in 2014, both from The University of Alabama. As the communications specialist for CCN, Rosemary manages the various external communications of the college, and works with faculty and staff on event coordination.

DELORIS WILLIS
Deloris Willis joins CCN as the executive assistant to the Dean. She is the initial point of contact for administrators, faculty, staff, students and the community. She supports the Dean, the College Administrative Support Team, the Faculty Organization Committee and College Assembly. Willis also manages the Employment Management System for the College. Deloris holds an Associate’s Degree in applied science.
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