

CCN RESEARCH

Newsletter

Spring 2019



Dr. Joshua Eyer, Dr. F. David Jones, & Dr. Monika Wedgeworth



"It really has been amazing working with the Capstone Rural Health Center, and it's been amazing the difference that this program has been able to make in the lives of those in Walker County."

- Dr. Eyer

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Monika Wedgeworth, Project Director, and Dr. Joshua Eyer, Project Evaluator, have recently been working on a HRSA Program Grant titled Gateway Capstone that focuses on bringing integrated behavioral and mental health services to Walker County through a nurse education program at the Capstone Rural Health Center.

By bringing behavioral health providers into a rural area where there has previously been limited access to mental health resources, Dr. Wedgeworth states that the program *"has not only had a long lasting impact on the residents of Walker County, but has also had an impact on our students who are now able to work in a rural environment and work with mental health services."*

To date, the program has been able to serve over 260 patients with over 1,000 visits at the Capstone Rural Health Center. Dr. Eyer explains that *"by using a model of integrated care, patients with mild to moderate depression are able get back on their feet and live their life again."* The project emphasizes the need for integrated care because it is able to not only help erase the stigma for people with mental health, but it is also able to provide healthcare services to patients who would otherwise not have access to care.

Dr. Wedgeworth, the Project Director of Gateway Capstone, hopes to spread this model of integrated care across the state of Alabama but *"for now we have to work with Alabama legislation for changes in the healthcare policy."*



Capstone College of
Nursing

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Dr. Todd Smith, Megan Cobb, Dr. Theresa Wadas, Hillary Melton, Sara Ferguson, Mackenzie Robb, Abby Jurzyck, Dr. Mercy Mumba, Elizabeth (Liddy) Di Valerio, Dr. Joshua Eyer, & Holly Kennedy

URCA Awards

Congratulations to all of our Nursing students and Faculty Mentors who were recognized for their outstanding research and mentorship at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference Awards Banquet on April 8, 2019! We are so proud to recognize the following individuals for their achievements:

1st Place – Health Sciences Division: *Burnout and Empowerment among Medical Faculty, Staff, and Residents in an Academic Medical Center.* **Megan Cobb** (Mentor: **Dr. Todd Smith**)

2nd Place – Health Sciences Division: *Physical Activity Predicts Depression in Older Adults.* **Makenzie Robb & Abby Jurzyck** (Mentor: **Dr. Mercy Mumba**)

Alabama Power Innovation Grant Winner & Honorable Mention – *Health Sciences Division: Telomere Length, American Heart Association's Life's Simple 7, and Psychosociocultural Factors among African American Women.* **Hillary Melton** (Mentor: **Dr. Theresa Wadas**)

Honorable Mention – *Health Sciences Division: Modeling the Journey of Transgender and Gender Creative TGC) Patients through Healthcare System Contact Points and Experiences of Stigma.* **Elizabeth Di Valerio** (Mentor: **Dr. Joshua Eyer**; Graduate Mentor: **Holly Kennedy**)

Honorable Mention – *Health Sciences Division: Assessing Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease and Type 2 Diabetes in Low-Income, Minority Preschool Children.* **Sara Ferguson** (Mentor: **Dr. Michele Montgomery**)

Honorable Mention – *Health Sciences Division: Cannabis, Sleep, and Traumatic Brain Injury: A Scoping Review.* **Brianna Velez** (Mentor: **Dr. Rachael Mumbower**)



Dr. Megan Lippe, Alexandra Stanley, Dr. Melondie Carter, & Dean Suzanne Prevost

Undergraduate Spotlight - Alexandra Stanley

The Capstone College of Nursing is excited to announce that undergraduate Alexandra Stanley is the 2019 Nursing Student Recipient of the Randall Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award for her project titled “Communicating Oncologic Prognosis with Empathy: A Field Test of a Novel Communication Guide.” Mentored by Dr. Megan Lippe, Alexandra has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to research and has helped to make significant contributions to the field of palliative nursing care research. Alexandra is a co-author on two manuscripts and presented her research at four conferences including the Sigma Theta Tau 30th International Nursing Research Congress.

CCN Research Society

The CCN Research Society continues to work toward recruiting new members and faculty research mentors. The purpose of this society 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 society. The research society meets once a month on Mondays at 12:15 p.m. This year, several faculty and students presented their research at the monthly meetings. In addition to society meetings, members attended the CCN Research Colloquia and presented at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference held in March. A record number of students worked with faculty members on a number of research projects that yielded various presentations and publications from their collaboration. As we approach the end of this academic year, senior members of the CCN Research Society who attended meetings regularly will be wearing an honor cord to recognize their membership in this club during the graduation ceremonies.

A sincere thank you goes out to the club leadership during the 2018-2019 academic year: Elizabeth Keith-President, Sara Pratt-Vice-President, Becca Janecke-Treasurer, and Katherine Hendry-Secretary. The newly elected President for 2019 is Brooke Bambis. As you can see, we have had a very active year. If you are interested in serving as a mentor to assist an undergraduate student in developing a research project, if you are able to include an undergraduate student in your program of research, or if you are interested in speaking about your research at a club meeting, please contact Dr. Paige Johnson (ptjohnso@ua.edu) or Dr. Michele Montgomery (mmontgomery1@ua.edu). If you are an undergraduate student who would like to become involved with the CCN Research Society and would like more information, please email ccnresearchsociety@gmail.com.

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Dr. Ashleigh Woods, Dr. Kerri Barron, Dr. Michelle Cheshire, Dr. Megan Lippe, Dr. Betty Key, Dr. Becky Owings, & Dr. Haley Strickland

Interprofessional Research Teams Spotlight - Educational Research Core

One Interprofessional Research Team here at the Capstone College of Nursing is the Educational Research Core, whose goal is to promote the scholarly productivity of faculty who engage in educational research and to connect faculty to mentors and resources to advance this goal. Co-chaired by Drs. Lippe and Woods, the research core provides members with several collaborative teams that engage in team research along with manuscript peer review and support for members of the core.

One project within the research core made up of team members Dr. Kaylor, Dr. Lippe, and Dr. Woods is the Rising Tide Grant Redesign that proposes the transformation of three foundational

nursing courses for first semester baccalaureate nursing students here at the Capstone. Using evidence-based strategies, the redesign aims to enhance student learning, reduce student failure rates, improve comprehension of critical foundational content to enhance future performance on the NCLEX nursing licensure exam, and foster the scholarly productivity of the course leaders.

Aside from the Rising Tide Grant Redesign, the Educational Research Core is working towards increased manuscript generation and grant submission through the collaboration of faculty members, and encourages all those with an interest in education research to join.

Publication Highlight

Davis, A. L., & Lippe, M. E. (2017). Two prelicensure nursing programs assess readiness to standardize palliative and end of life care curriculum. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 8(2), 29.

The purpose of this study was to examine the different needs-assessments conducted by two universities regarding palliative and end-of-life care and to describe those processes and challenges encountered by those schools to aid schools and programs who may be preparing to conduct a similar needs-assessment. Because the current nursing education system often has gaps and minimal emphasis on palliative and end-of-life (PEOL) care, there is a growing need for nurses to be trained to care for patients with serious, life-limiting illnesses and to decrease the amount of nurses reporting that they feel inadequately prepared to do so.

The two needs-assessments that Lippe and Davis' article discuss include a three-part needs assessment that gave rise to in an ad hoc committee (whose purpose was to guide content integration at that university) as well as a faculty-led survey that challenged faculty members to identify areas of improvement within the program. Conducting a needs assessment is a critical first step towards successful integration of primary PEOL education so that future nurses feel prepared to provide quality care for their patients, and this formative evaluation that both universities engaged in was able to provide critical information about the strengths and weaknesses of their current programs prior to the improvements made to the curriculum used to build upon existing PEOL content.

Grants/Awards

Callihan, M. (PI), **Kaylor, S.K.** (Co-PI) The development of best practice for the lifting of a patient from the floor secured to a rigid spine board, direct patient lift from the floor, and the horizontal transfer of a patient. Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center: Pilot Study. \$11,551.

Kirkpatrick, B., **George, S.** (Consultant) Mugoya, G.C.T., Vaugans, D., Carter, V. Rural Virtual Therapy for People Living with HIV. Viiv Healthcare, Southern Initiative Positive Action Grant. \$25,000

Morales-Aleman, M. (PI), Bradley, L.J. (PI), Graettinger, K. (Co-I) **George, S.** (Co-I), **Lee, A.**(Co-I). Telemedicine-toward Empowering Rural Moms (TERM). Remote Pregnancy Monitoring Challenge. \$10,000.

Cody, S. L. (PI), **George, S.** (Co-I), Payne-Foster, P. (Co-I), Gunn, H. (Co-I), Gable, P. (Co-I)., & Vance, D. E. (Co-I). Exploring Racial Disparities in Sleep Health among Older HIV-Positive Adults with HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND). Resource Center for Minority Aging Research. Total: \$25,000.

Mumba, M. (PI), Davis, L., **George, S.**, **Findlay, L.** Specialized Behavioral Treatment for Relapse Prevention among Veterans with Opioid Use Disorders. Veterans Administration VSIN 7 K- Grant Awards. \$171,050.

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