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School of Nursing Newsletter

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7-2014

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Greetings from the Dean

The School of Nursing (SON) is a “happening” place! Nearly 700 students in four programs (AS, RN-BS, MSN, DNP) bring an amazing amount of talent and energy onto our campus and, specifically, to Florida Hospital Hall. The SON motto is “Christ-centered Excellence: Caring - Learning - Serving.” Numerous events occur year-round that reflect the impact of this motto in the lives of students and faculty. How can we best share these moments with our alumni and friends?

The “water cooler effect” is a real phenomenon, keeping employees interested, connected, cohesive, and yes, more productive (psychologytoday.com/blog/reality-mining/200911/the-water-cooler-effect/). As we considered

how to mimic a “water cooler effect” with you, an annual newsletter wasn’t deemed adequate. We wish to share events, awards, new educational endeavors, fundraising activities, etc, in a timely and interesting way to connect you with your alma mater. A determination was made that we could create a virtual “water cooler” via the newly designed website southern.edu/nursing and Facebook page.

So, please stay in touch. We are excited about having you as a connected and invested part of the SON family!

Barbara James



First DNP Graduating Class

On May 4, 2014, six graduates received Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees and proudly made history as the first to complete the new doctoral program in the School of Nursing (SON). These graduates were part of an initial cohort who started the program in 2012. Four of the graduates received degrees with an emphasis in Lifestyle Therapeutics; one received her degree with an acute care specialization; and one completed both the lifestyle and acute care nurse practitioner emphases.

The SON has worked tirelessly over a number of years to make this program a reality as the recommendation for entry into advanced practice has moved in the doctoral direction. The DNP emphases focus on important areas of healthcare. The very popular lifestyle emphasis allows individuals with a master’s degree in nursing to examine ways to combat the many lifestyle diseases currently existing in our society – diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, tobacco use disorders, etc. Online resources and didactic content, clinical opportunities, and on-campus intensives make for a rich learning experience whether in this or the acute care emphases. Students completing the acute care NP emphasis are board-eligible. The acute care specialization allows practitioners to specialize in a clinical area of their choice, such as cardiology, pulmonology, etc.

The six DNP program graduates, and others currently enrolled in the DNP program, will be happy to know that

the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) confirmed full initial five-year accreditation of the program on June 4, 2014 after a rigorous program review in February 2014. This action is retroactive for those who just completed the program.



Pictured L-R: Mattie Sherard, Debbie Lorenz, Catherine Marcum, Monica Chamberlain, Lilly Tryon, Joy Hamilton

The SON looks forward to seeing the DNP program grow. More information can be obtained on our website at southern.edu/graduatestudies/Pages/graduatedegrees.aspx.

Tables Turned, Faculty Still Smiling

Faculty took a turn at sitting in the students' place as they learned an exciting new application: Panopto. Instructors from Online Campus visited Florida Hospital Hall's Learning Resource Center to share the latest information about Panopto with the nursing faculty. Panopto allows for video, audio, PowerPoint and desktop activities to be recorded and then shared with users from any location with Internet access. Teachers can create quality video content that can be used from semester to semester. Students can capture assignments and uploads for review later.



The testing room shown above is where students spend many hours studying and testing. We hope you'll visit during Alumni Weekend!

Thank You!

Simulation equipment is key to the students' education in the School of Nursing, giving them an opportunity to practice real-life medical situations without endangering real-live patients. However, with just two adult human simulators available for the more than 300 students who use them each semester, scheduling is a challenge.

We hope to purchase a third simulator soon to provide more practical learning opportunities for students. In response to a matching gift challenge offered for the first \$30,000 received, 93 of you gave a total of \$4,363. Those gifts have been matched for a total of \$8,726 toward the \$60,000 needed for the simulator.

Thank you to the many of you who gave to the School of Nursing this year! Your support makes a difference!

Yes, we still have a way to go, so if you haven't yet taken advantage of the matching gift opportunity, you still can! Help us to reach our goal and to continue educating some of the best nurses in the nation.

Alumni Homecoming Weekend
October 23-26

Honor Classes:

1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1969,
1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 2004

Email nominations to
bjames@southern.edu
for a Southern honor class recipient
of the Elvie Swinson award

Kudos to Local Alumni

Joshua Carithers, AS Dec. 2010,
and Jorge Patino, AS May 2011,
received nursing-excellence-of-
the-year awards from Memorial
and Children's at Erlanger,
respectively.

Charlotte Webb, MSN-FNP 2009,
assistant professor of Nursing,
was awarded the Teaching
Excellence in Technology award
from Chattanooga State in April
2013.

Debra Moore, who received
the dual degree MSN/MBA,
December 2006, has been
named president of Memorial
Hospital in Hixson.

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