Dean’s Corner

We recently received news that the College of Nursing has been awarded a state bond in the amount of $20 Million! The bonus to this bond is that we will receive the funds in one payment, which will allow us to move forward with the construction of our new building and break ground in the Spring of 2014. This is excellent news for us as a College, as it will improve our lack of space for offices, classrooms and simulation. While this bond, in addition to the recent $1 Million gift from Joe & Kathy Sanderson of Laurel, and previously acquired funds helps us to begin construction, we will still be fundraising through our USM Foundation Building Campaign to support the endowment of the building and to help earn operational support and monies for furnishings. This is an exciting time and while it will take lots of hard work to get ready for the spring, the benefits will be abounding for our faculty and students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Nugent
Dean, College of Nursing

Breaking New Ground, Transforming Health Care
Sandersons Make $1 Million Commitment to Nursing Building Campaign

With a $1 million gift commitment from Joe and Kathy Sanderson of Laurel, Miss., The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation’s College of Nursing Building Campaign has exceeded the $5 million mark on the way to reaching its $8 million goal.

The campaign began last year with the announcement of a $4 million gift from the Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg that provided naming rights for the new facility to be known as Asbury Hall. The contribution by Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson will name Asbury Hall’s Clinical Simulation Lab for the family.

The Sanderson Clinical Simulation Lab, covering more than 8,000 square feet on the second floor of the proposed building, will feature specialized patient care areas with patient simulators, task trainers, simulated health care records and equipment needed to provide care that will enhance patient safety.

Mr. Sanderson is the Chief Executive Officer of Sanderson Farms, Inc., a publicly held poultry company that is one of the leading food corporations in the United States. Mr. Sanderson has held numerous positions in the company since 1969 including the role of President from 1989 to 2004. In addition to his current position as CEO, he also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and is a member of the Executive Committee.

“My wife and I are very pleased to support the expansion of the College of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi,” said Joe Sanderson. “We know that our state will need the health care professionals that will be produced out of this program including registered nurses, nurse practitioners and nurses with PhDs who will teach other nursing students. We congratulate USM on its vision and are happy to add our support.”

Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson are among the state of Mississippi’s most generous benefactors, having made significant gifts to numerous charities including the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Mrs. Sanderson, a former school teacher, is actively engaged in the community and has been recognized as the Humanitarian of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel.

The Sandersons’ gift will be a critical component of the funding required to build the new nursing facility, and it will help provide nursing students and faculty with the tools they need to continue to make a difference in the lives of Mississippi residents.

“The Southern Miss College of Nursing faculty and students are extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson for their generous support of our growing program,” said Dr. Katherine Nugent, dean of the College of Nursing. “The Nursing Clinical Simulation area is a vital aspect of the education of nursing students as simulation improves clinical skills, facilitates critical thinking and prepares our graduates to be proficient nurses.”

The Sandersons made their gift to the College of Nursing with the understanding that the space would be named in their honor, and they have named it as such. The Sandersons will also be responsible for the annual capital maintenance of this facility.

The USM Foundation, in partnership with the University’s College of Nursing, announced the fundraising campaign on January 18, 2012, to aid in the construction of a new nursing facility. As of March 20, 2013, the campaign has received $5.3 million in commitments.

Five million dollars of the $8 million campaign has been earmarked for construction with the remaining $3 million to be used for an endowment to support the long-term maintenance needs of the proposed $6,000 square foot building with a total project cost of $28 million. Federal grants and state bond funding provided by the Mississippi legislature will also be required to complete the project.

The state-of-the-art Asbury Hall, to be located on the western edge of the University’s Hattiesburg campus, will provide an applied learning space that will empower nursing faculty to continue to strive for instructional excellence and will further impact the College of Nursing’s ability to recruit qualified students and faculty. By increasing the square footage dedicated to the College by 135 percent, Asbury Hall will provide much-needed space for teaching and experiential learning, replacing a facility that can no longer meet the requirements of nursing education.

“The University of Southern Mississippi deeply appreciates the continuing generosity of Joe and Kathy Sanderson,” said Dr. Aubrey Lucas, Interim President of the University. “These friends are always supporting colleges, universities and other institutions that make life better in our state. Their gift to the College of Nursing building will help provide much-needed health care personnel for the citizens of Mississippi.”

Bob Pierce, vice president for University Advancement and Executive Director of the USM Foundation praised the Sandersons for their significant investment in the facility and also credited former University President, Dr. Martha Saunders, for her extensive role in securing the gift.

“The Sandersons are wonderful stewards of their finances, and they have made an incredible impact on this state with their charitable contributions. We appreciate all they have done and of course are grateful they decided to make such a sizable gift to this important project. I am pleased we will have an impressive space on this campus named in their honor,” said Pierce. “I am also indebted to Dr. Saunders for her involvement in this process. Her departure from the presidency didn’t hinder her engagement with, and enthusiasm for, the Sandersons and the potential of this gift.”

Source: https://www.usm.edu/news/article/sandersons-make-1-million-commitment-nursing-building-campaign
Two PhD Nursing Students Complete Dissertations

Crystal R. Threadgill and Nita Magee recently completed the course requirements for a PhD in Nursing and will graduate in May 2013. They successfully defended their dissertations in March 2013. The findings from the research of both dissertation studies were intriguing and added significant knowledge to the body of nursing science.

Crystal R. Threadgill

Crystal R. Threadgill’s dissertation title is *Perceptions of Workplace Bullying Among Practicing RNs*. Members of her dissertation committee were: Dr. Janie Butts, Chair of the committee, with members, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, Dr. Sheila Davis, Dr. J. T. Johnson, and Dr. Karen Lundy.

Crystal R. Threadgill received a baccalaureate degree in 1994 from the University of Mobile and earned a Master’s of Science in nursing degree in 2002. Crystal lives in Mobile, Alabama and teaches nursing at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) in Gautier. For more than 18 years, Crystal has worked in various areas of nursing such as telemetry, general medical-surgical, correctional health, post-partum, and mental health. She is board-certified in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. Crystal is a member of several professional organizations, such as Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Theta Chi Collegiate Honors Society, American Nurses Association, and Psychiatric Nurses Association. She plans to expand her research on workplace bullying with other populations and geographic locations.

Nita Magee

Nita Magee’s dissertation title is “Depression Predictors Among Veterans.” Members of her dissertation committee were: Dr. Sheila Davis, Chair of the Committee, with members, Dr. Janie Butts, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, Dr. Anita Boykins, and Dr. J. T. Johnson.

Nita Magee graduated in 1992 from the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. She continued her education at The University of Southern Mississippi achieving a Master’s of Science degree in nursing as a mental health clinician. Her career began in oncology but she eventually found her “love” in mental health. She has been at the Jackson VA Medical Center since August 1996. Her plans are to expand her research on depression predictors of veterans.
PhD Student Selected to Attend the National Institute of Nursing Research

Tina McDyess, a second year College of Nursing PhD Student, has been selected to attend the highly competitive and prestigious National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD held June 3-28, 2013. Ms. McDyess will gain an excellent foundation in molecular genetics that she will use in her doctoral research project. Ms. McDyess is the first College of Nursing student to be selected for a NIH Summer Institute. The College of Nursing would like to congratulate Ms. McDyess for this outstanding accomplishment.

College of Nursing Hosts Luncheon, Presentation on Leadership

Dr. Les Wallace was the guest speaker during a luncheon hosted by The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing and sponsored by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Thursday at the Trent Lott Center. A noted expert on leadership, Wallace is president of Signature Resources Inc., an international leadership firm based in Colorado. His presentation was titled "21st Century Leadership: Thinking Differently." He is co-author of the book A Legacy of 21st Century Leadership: A Guide for Creating a Climate of Leadership Throughout Your Organization.

Faculty Member’s Poster Accepted for Presentation

Drs. Tinnon, Elliott, and Newton have had a research poster accepted for presentation at the 42nd Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention in November 2013. The convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN, at the home of STT Headquarters.

The research poster is titled: “The Effectiveness of Simulation in an Undergraduate Nursing Pharmacology Course.”

Source: http://www.usm.edu/news/article/college-nursing-hosts-luncheon-presentation-leadership
Gilmore Provides Care in Haiti

Melanie Gilmore, FNP Faculty at USM spent the week in Haiti providing care for the impoverished in a rural mountain area. The families in this remote area do not have running water or electricity. They are three hours away from a general hospital in Port Au Prince and most cannot afford medical care or the medications needed to help them. Children and women walk several miles each day to find fresh water at nearby community wells.

Pictured to the left is Dr. Gilmore holding a two-month-old infant whose mother could not care for him and the baby had not received any nutrition since the previous day.

Student Nurses Working for Cultural Diversity Present Check to Christian Services

Anna Di Raimo and Marshall Howse presented a donation of $150 to Christian Services. The money was raised by the Student Nurses Working for Cultural Diversity. Anna is the organization’s President and Marshall is the Treasurer.

Ribbon Cutting at Gulf Park College of Nursing

The $1.5 million Nursing Building features two labs, faculty offices, and study areas. The 10,000 square foot renovated building used to be the city's recreation center. The facility replaces the one that was destroyed by Katrina.
In March, nurse practitioner students successfully completed their first of two health assessment checkoffs at the advanced level. The sim lab was converted into a simulated outpatient clinic. Students were partnered with a classmate and each had a turn of being the nurse practitioner (NP) and the patient. The NP was given a mock patient chart just prior to entering the exam room. The patient was given a script with their illness and the answers to questions the NP may ask. Students assessed the chief complaint, performed focused interviews and physical exams, and then formulated differential diagnoses. The encounter was concluded with students documenting the encounter in the form of a SOAP note. In April, these NP students will complete the final check-off prior to beginning precepted hours with a nurse practitioner in their community.
Students receive many excellent clinical practice experiences while in the nursing program at USM. Pictured here is just one example. These students, who are set to graduate at the end of this semester, are receiving instruction and practice analyzing labor progress and fetal status through electronic fetal monitoring by Mrs. Pam Berry, a staff nurse in the L & D department at South Central Regional Medical Center.

A big thanks goes out to the nurses, techs, and physicians at South Central (and all facilities utilized for clinical experiences) for the excellent learning opportunities that they provide to the CON students! Pictured here along with Mrs. Berry (sitting) are CON students (standing left to right), Regina Smith, Melanie Thomas (back), Alexis Hauptmann and Tyler Williams during their 3rd semester OB clinical rotation.

Shown here are 3rd semester OB students Chris Koester, Andrew Gottula; Sky Ray, Ariel Ragan and Danielle Boudreaux assisting the staff of South Central’s Maternal/Child department with their annual Well Doll Clinic.

The clinic helps children to feel more comfortable with hospital visits. The clinic gives kindergarten and first grade students the opportunity to check in their own stuffed animals as patients. The children participate as their dolls receive ID badges and are weighed and tested using various hospital equipment. As you can see the USM students enjoyed the clinic almost as much as the children.
The Online Journal of Health Ethics Becomes A Part of the Aquila Digital Commons Community

Staff of the Online Journal of Health Ethics recently underwent training by USM affiliate, Bepress Consulting Services as a preliminary step to move the journal to its new host site in the University of Southern Mississippi’s Aquila Digital Commons open access repository. This exciting new opportunity will expand our readability through internet search engines, such as Google, thereby expanding our scholarly output to a wider audience.

The Aquila Digital Community is administered by the University Libraries and is an open access digital repository containing all of the scholarly works created by the University of Southern Mississippi faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, Aquila hosts digital journals and newsletters published by the University, as well as information and resources from events hosted by the University. You will now be able to access the journal at: http://aquila.usm.edu/ojhe.

Students Provide Health Education to Community

The Adult Health 2 class performed blood pressure checks and a variety of teaching topics with people in the Hattiesburg community. Two Southern Miss Nursing students, Shelley Fowler and Morgan McCullough, were volunteering on campus and given the opportunity to have some air-time on the Southern Miss radio station. They proudly represented the College of Nursing while discussing the profession of nursing, different disease processes and the importance of healthy living.

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