Dr. Gerry Cadenhead Fletcher was a dear friend, supporter and advisor of The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing and she will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege to work with her. Dr. Fletcher earned degrees at Baylor and The University of Colorado before completing her PhD at The University of Texas at Austin. She began her career at The University of Southern Mississippi in 1980 as a Chair for the Baccalaureate Program and Associate Professor. Throughout her nursing career at Southern Miss, Dr. Fletcher served in the roles of Assistant Dean and Associate Professor and served as Dean of the College of Nursing from 1997-2001.

Dr. Fletcher was active in many areas of nursing including service, education and administration. She worked as an Assistant Administrator at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport for several years and was actively involved in the Mississippi Nursing Association, including service as a board member. Along with a love for nursing, she was also an avid supporter of Southern Miss Athletics. Her legacy and examples of leadership will forever be present at the Southern Miss College of Nursing.
The Concurrent Academic Progression in Nursing Pathway (CAPINP) Receives Approval to Begin Enrollment

In Mississippi the percentage of nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level is well below the national average. In response to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendation to increase the percentage of nurses with BSN degrees to 80% by the year 2020, the Southern Miss College of Nursing will begin enrolling students in the Concurrent Academic Progression in Nursing Pathway (CAPINP) during the fall 2013 semester. This innovative program option received approval from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning during July 2013.

The CAPINP provides an opportunity for students enrolled in participating associate degree nursing programs within the state of Mississippi with the option for early enrollment in our current RN-BSN completion program. The CAPINP allows students who meet admission requirements to enroll in nonclinical courses required in the completion program while simultaneously enrolled in an associate degree in nursing program. Students may enroll in one CAPINP course along with associate degree nursing course(s) each fall semester, one CAPINP course along with associate degree nursing course(s) each spring semester, and two CAPINP courses each summer semester. The program has been designed to be flexible. Students may begin the CAPINP during any semester after the completion of all prerequisite courses. Students may choose not to take a CAPINP course during any semester although not taking a course as scheduled will lengthen the time until graduation with the baccalaureate degree. Once the student graduates from associate degree nursing program and passes the NCLEX-RN, the student may progress into the clinical portion of the RN-BSN plan of study.

Through enrollment in the CAPINP, students are able to graduate from the associate degree in nursing program, pass the NCLEX-RN, and then have only one semester of coursework remaining to earn the BSN degree. The CAPINP is not an option for all nursing students enrolled in associate degree programs, but for those who qualify, it provides the opportunity to accelerate the process of earning the BSN. It is anticipated that this program option has the potential to significantly impact the educational preparation of nurses in Mississippi.

BSN Nursing Student Places in Miss Mississippi Pageant

Jordin Johnson, a College of Nursing BSN student, competed in the 2013 Miss Mississippi Pageant held at the Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, MS on the dates of July 10 thru July 13. Jordin competed in the pageant as Miss Leaf River Valley, and won the July 10th talent preliminary. She was eventually name the 3rd alternate to the Miss Mississippi crown. Congratulations Jordin!

Research Interest Group Opportunity

Dr. Sheila Davis, professor at the College of Nursing, asks all interested parties to contact her in regards to an opportunity to serve in a Research Interest Group (RIG) of the Southern Nurses Research Society (SNRS). Several of the RIGS still need leaders and co-leaders. This represents a tremendous opportunity to network with nurse researches throughout the region.

Rogers Editorial Published in Journal

Dr. Vickie L. Rogers has a guest co-editorial published August, 2013 in the Archives of Psychiatric Nursing journal. The editorial is titled "Where Does the New DSM Fit Within Nursing's Odyssey of Language Utility"?