Asbury Hall, the new home to the College of Nursing is a premier state of the art 81,000 square foot facility that will be completed in Spring 2017. Join us as we celebrate completion of the new building and our 50th anniversary by purchasing a piece of Eagle history.

For just $250, through The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing Brick by Brick Program, you can create an everlasting legacy. You can personalize a message to be engraved on one of the brick pavers to be installed at the entrance of Asbury Hall. This location will catch the attention of all who enter; whether it be visitors, alumni, students, administrators, faculty, staff, friends and supporters of the University of Southern Mississippi each year.

Purchasing this brick paver will be a unique way to recognize or pay tribute to a distinguished faculty member or deserving mentor, memorialize a loved one, celebrate a special event, and promote your business or organization or show your loyal support to the University of Southern Mississippi.

Don’t Miss Out on this Once In a Lifetime Opportunity!
Priority Deadline Date is January 31, 2016

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Southern Miss College of Nursing Sees First Graduates of Nurse Anesthesia Program

After three arduous years of classroom and clinical requirements, 18 students have excelled to become the inaugural graduates of the Nurse Anesthesia Program in the University of Southern Mississippi’s College of Nursing.

The graduates will receive their doctorate of nursing practice during the University’s 2015 Fall Commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 11 at Reed Green Coliseum on the Hattiesburg campus. Having completed the program, the graduates are eligible to take the national certification exam to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

Southern Miss became the first among Mississippi’s eight institutions of higher learning to offer a degree-granting nurse anesthesia curriculum when the program was launched in January, 2013. Twenty students were originally selected as part of the inaugural class.

“The Southern Miss College of Nursing is proud of the inaugural graduation of our nurse anesthesia students and the Nurse Anesthesia Program,” said Dr. Katherine Nugent, dean of the College of Nursing. “Our ability to provide a quality program is not possible without the strong support and clinical instruction from our clinical agencies who partnered with us to offer the only nurse anesthesia program in this state.”

Nugent further notes that the support of University administration in providing resources, coupled with collaboration of all faculty in the College of Nursing, “creates a solid foundation for the future of this program.”

The program’s mission is to supply doctoral prepared graduates with the advanced knowledge in the area of clinical specialization of nurse anesthesia. The doctoral degree prepares the CRNA to assume leadership positions in education, management and patient care by offering a curriculum concentrating on quality assessment and improvement, health care system and organizations, leadership, best evidence of practice, health policy and health care economics.

Program Director Dr. Vickie Stuart points out that there are 57 students at various stages in the doctoral program. To date all 18 students set to graduate have either accepted or been offered employment as staff CRNAs, and two of those will be reporting for duty as CRNAs in the U.S. Air Force (all contingent upon passing the CRNA certification exam).

“The graduation of the inaugural class of the Southern Miss Nurse Anesthesia Program conveys the message that a quality education in nurse anesthesia is obtainable at Southern Miss,” said Stuart. “All of the graduates have exceeded the minimum number of clinical anesthetic experiences required by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA).”

The minimum case requirement is 550 anesthetics per student, and the Southern Miss class average is 922 per students. One of those exemplary records belongs to Franklinton, La., native Claudine Boos, who expressed a sense of relief about completing the grueling program.

“It has been a demanding three years, but also a very fulfilling three years,” said Boos, who obtained her associate’s degree in nursing more than 20 years ago. “I would highly recommend this program to anyone. I can truly say that I feel our instructors desire to see us succeed. That is not a statement I have heard from some students attending other CRNA programs.”

Boos, the mother of three sons, has already accepted a position with Hattiesburg Clinic. “I am so excited about the opportunity to work with so many of the wonderful CRNAs and anesthesiologists who have shared their time, knowledge, and expertise with me and my classmates over the last few years,” said Boos.

Madison, Miss., native Sam Self worked in the fitness industry for many years after earning an undergraduate degree in Exercise Science from Mississippi College. But he could not shake a gut feeling that he was destined for a different career.

“After several years something wasn’t complete. I was called to do something a bit different,” said Self. “The hospital setting drew me in, with higher patient acuity, and a more challenging daily routine. Having spent much of my childhood in a call room waiting for my dad (CRNA in Jackson, Miss.) to finish the anesthesia for a patient’s emergent procedure, I was accustomed to a hospital environment.”

Self ultimately obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University Medical Center in Jackson before opting to become part of the inaugural nurse anesthesia class at Southern Miss. His advice to those who choose to enter the program – be prepared for the long haul.

“Preparation in every aspect is integral to success in the program. Education, financially, emotionally, experience, family all should be considered before applying. It is a long three years. If you aren’t fully devoted to completing anesthesia school, then it probably won’t work out.”

The program has not only worked out for Self, but has also led him to a commission in the U.S. Air Force. “My commitment of service after school is three years, but I am strongly considering making a career out of it,” said Self, who will attend Commissioner Officers Training at Maxwell Air Force Base upon passage of national CRNA certification.

Stuart says the program’s validity can be aptly illustrated by the numerous emails and phone calls she has received from representative of anesthesia groups who have interviewed Southern Miss NAP students as potential employees.

“During the interview process our graduates have made such a positive impression that the groups are calling seeking additional students for employment and have asked to recruit directly from our program in the future,” said Stuart. “In fact, after the first of the year, the recruitment efforts will begin for the next graduating class.”

Added Stuart: “These students, particularly those who represent our inaugural graduating class, serve as ambassadors for the program, the College of Nursing, USM, and the State of Mississippi.”

Dr. Marcus Gaut Participates in Statewide Day of Giving

On October 24, Mississippians went online or went to a local charity to help those in need during the first statewide Day of Giving in a proclamation by Governor Phil Bryant.

Dr. Marcus Gaut took this as an opportunity to do some much-needed volunteer work at the Edward Street Fellowship Center’s Thrift Store. He had this to say, “It's important for me to teach my children to serve and to give back.”

Dr. Gaut was hired into the Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes Department as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2015. His commitment to research in the area of health outcomes, health disparities, and his leadership background made him an ideal candidate for the position. He is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana. Prior to beginning his tenure here at Southern Miss, he was a resident of Monroe, LA where he completed his nursing education and began his career in nursing. Dr. Gaut is married with three children and a miniature Schnauzer. His research interests include health promotion and Faith Community Nursing.

Dr. Janie Butts was named the University's Faculty Ombudsman for 2015-2016 Academic Year

Dr. Janie Butts, Professor in the Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes Department of the College of Nursing, was appointed by the Provost to the role of Faculty Ombudsman for the University. This appointment is the first time a nursing professor has been appointed to this role.

Role of the University Faculty Ombudsman:
If the President requests a preliminary investigation, the Provost will request that the ombudsman conduct an inquiry of all allegations, interview relevant parties, review relevant documents, and confer with other institutional officers.

The Ombudsman:
- May conduct interviews with the faculty member and seek a resolution of the matter pending presidential approval.
- Will submit a written report and recommendation to the President, together with all supporting documentation and will submit copies of the same to the faculty member.

Appointment Process:
The provost is advised by a provost's council, deans, departmental, decanal, and university-wide personnel committees, and by the Academic Council, the Graduate Council, Council of Chairs, and the Faculty Senate.

Johnson Helps to Update Medication Administration Policy at the USM Center for Child Development

On September 30th, Kathy Johnson, RN, MSN met with the Center for Child Development faculty to review and update their Medication Administration Policy as it relates to the Kids at the Daycare. They reviewed medication administration to infants, toddlers and preschoolers and the current “Assisted Self Administration Curriculum” that is approved by the Mississippi Board of Nursing for use with School Children in Mississippi. One of the goals in administering medicines to students at school is to promote optimal wellness in order to enhance their ability to learn. Especially important are verification of current prescriptions from the physician, proper handling and storage of the meds, correct methods of administration and proper documentation of the meds given. Confidentiality (HIPPA) laws and what to do if reactions occur were also covered as well.

Tinnon Represents STTI at Convention in Las Vegas & Presents Poster

Dr. Elizabeth Tinnon attended the Biennial Convention in Las Vegas and served as the Gamma Lambda chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International chapter delegate and presented her work in a podium presentation entitled "Ebola 101 Module: An Opportunity for Students to Think Globally, Act Locally". Dr. Tinnon and Dr. Rebecca Newton also presented their poster, "The Effectiveness of Simulation in Increasing Nursing Student's Knowledge Regarding Their Role in Adverse Drug Events in an Undergraduate medical Surgical Theory Course."
Students of the Student Nurses’ Association attended the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses convention in Biloxi, MS. BSN students, Emily Holland and Chandler Hardin served as delegates. Emily Holland won a State position on the MASN board as Chairperson of Fundraising! Senior BSN students, Merry Coffin and Diane Lazarus were inducted into MASN Hall of Fame for their outstanding leadership and accomplishments!

They have also been busy participating as first aid workers for Hattiesburg Rotary Club Bike-A-Thon, feeding the homeless along side MNA District 8 members, Hattiesburg Halloween Parade, Operation Christmas Child, Heart Walk, donating time and food to Christian Services for Thanksgiving, and Edward Street Mission!

Gamma Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Inducts 88 New Members

Gamma Lambda successfully inducted 88 students this year! STTI honored Miriam Cabana and Gerry Cadenhead by awarding nine students with the highest GPA with $100 each. See a list of inductees below:

**Baccalaureate**

Alexander, Bailee: Hattiesburg
Barlow, Megan: Picayune
Barnes, Alexis: Mt. Olive
Batia, Marissa: Hattiesburg
Bennett, Brooke: Hattiesburg
Biss, Lindsey: Ocean Springs
Blackmon, Elizabeth: Diamondhead
Boylan, Alexandra: Hattiesburg
Breaux, Kacey: Hattiesburg
Calder, Sarah: Hattiesburg
Clay, Rachel: Hattiesburg
Corrales, Kelsi: Hattiesburg
Daniel, Rebecca: Hattiesburg
Davis, Elizabeth: Wiggins
Easterling, Haley: Ellisville
Edwards, Andrew: Hattiesburg
Fayard, Kayla: Hattiesburg
Fuller, Rachel: Hattiesburg
Funchess, Megan: Hattiesburg
Gilg, Anna: Hattiesburg
Gilman, Loree: Gulfport
Grant, Kimberly: Hattiesburg
Hartdegen, Hannah: Hattiesburg
Keeler, Julia: Hattiesburg
Kittler, Jennifer: Hattiesburg
Kuyrkendall, Abby: Hattiesburg
Laabs, Krysta: Diamondhead
Lacap, Kimberly: Long Beach
Lazarus, Meredith: Hattiesburg
Leggett, Miranda: Hattiesburg
Liebl, Christa: Hattiesburg
Lumley, Mary: Hattiesburg

Maples, Mallory: Hattiesburg
Meece, Thomas: Hattiesburg
Mixon, Adealie: Hattiesburg
Moulds, Jarrod: Hattiesburg
Nevels, Lynn: Hattiesburg
Nichols, Kelsi: Hattiesburg
O’Barr, Alexandra: Hattiesburg
Odom, Sarah: Hattiesburg
Osborne, Lacey: Hattiesburg
Phillipi, Lauren: Hattiesburg
Quave, Laura: Hattiesburg
Ragon, Justin: Long Beach
Reeves, Ashley: Hattiesburg
Scott, Jessica: Hattiesburg
Sharpe, Kayla: Bay St. Louis
Smith, Amber: Hattiesburg
Smith, Carly: Hattiesburg
Stephens, Kamie: Hattiesburg
Summerford, Dunam: Gulfport
Swain, Cordelia: Gulfport
Wickell, Rachel: Hattiesburg
Whitehead, Katherine: Hattiesburg
Williams, James: Hattiesburg
Wooten, Rachel: Hattiesburg
Yon, Amber: Saucier

**Graduate**

Barr, Keri: Meridian
Bernardo, Dana: Hattiesburg
Bracey, Brittney: Foxworth
Butler, Benjamin: Meridian
Coulson, Brooke: Mendenhall
Davis, Cathy: Carriere
Dunaway, Amanda: D’Iberville
Floyd, Mitti: Brandon
Hitt, Lauren: Vancleave
Holden, Belinda: Poplarville
Johnson, Rachel: Jackson
Kijonka, Erin: Long Beach
Little, Candise: Mantachie
Lumpkin-Freeman, Stephanie: Carriere
McDavid, James: Madison
McKnight, Rebecca: Brandon
Miller, Laken: Sumrall
Mixon, Tanner: Hattiesburg
Nolan, Katlin: Fulton
O’Neal, Erin: Hattiesburg
Phipps, Linsey: Hattiesburg
Power, Mary: Brandon
Whitney, Donald Lane: Franklinton, LA
Williams, Melissa: Enid
Willis, Britanny: Pope
Young-Hunter, Christina: Hattiesburg
Zhao, Ruoyu: Clinton
Dr. Holman invited the Allied Health students at Pass Christian High School for a field trip to the CON simulation lab. The students toured the labs and had an opportunity to participate in a simulation. With the help of Dr. Chatham and Judy Parker, these students successfully delivered a healthy baby girl on November 20th at 0920. In addition to the high fidelity experience, the students had an opportunity to work with a virtual patient, Skylar Hansen. The group was eager to learn and very interested in nursing! SMTTT!!

Gulf Coast BSN Students, Pepper Ginder and Ashley Costello, received a Veteran Scholarship at the Foundation Tailgate.

Graduating senior BSN students in Hattiesburg hosted a Senior Legacy Day. A day in which they presented posters to fellow students to help better prepare them for the rest of their nursing education.
The College of Nursing recognized all of the Class of 2015 graduates from the PhD, DNP, MSN, RN-BSN, and BSN programs for all of their hard work and accomplishments! A reception was held on the Hattiesburg campus for the students’ friends and families at the Trent Lott Center, and the recognition and pinning ceremonies were held in Bennett Auditorium.