State Treasurer Fitch Offers Support to New Southern Miss Nursing Building

State Treasurer Lynn Fitch lauded the vision and leadership that helped fuel designs for a new College of Nursing building currently under construction at The University of Southern Mississippi during a visit to the Hattiesburg campus on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Asbury Hall, with an estimated construction cost of $31 million, is on schedule to be completed by May, 2016. The new building will increase the square footage dedicated to the College of Nursing by 135 percent and allow for an increase in nursing enrollment from the current 550 students to more than 800.

“The role of health care in our state and region cannot be understated,” said Fitch. “And facilities such as Asbury Hall will enable The University of Southern Mississippi to educate and train the next generation of nurses who will provide the type of quality health care that will benefit patients in our state and beyond.”

Fitch also took time to explain the bond funding process that played a pivotal role in getting Asbury Hall off the ground. The State Legislature appropriated $20 million in bond funding for the project. Late last year the State Bond Commission authorized the sale of $157 million tax-exempt bonds (Series 2015A) and $129 million taxable bonds (Series 2015B), and the bonds were priced to sell in the open market on Feb. 3, 2015. The proceeds of the bond sale will allow Mississippi to fund economic development and capital improvement projects through the issuance of these bonds.

“Having the opportunity to fund projects like the University of Southern Mississippi Asbury Hall is vital to our state,” said Fitch. “It is important to manage the long-term state debut in a conservative manner and to be prudent with our state’s finances. Asbury Hall, paid in part by private dollars, is a perfect example of using our resources to ensure Mississippi stays competitive and allow our students to have access to the best schools and universities.”


Breaking New Ground, Transforming Health Care
Doctoral Student to Present at the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Conference

Tiffany Zyniewicz, a second year Ph.D. in Nursing Leadership student has been accepted to present a podium presentation entitled: "Marketing, Power, and Influence: Increasing Simulation Center Utilization and Moving Toward Return on Investment" at the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning conference June 10-13th in Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of this activity is to enable the learner to identify their own sources of power and influence as leaders in simulation and how these skills can be used toward creating a return on investment for their simulation centers. In this session, learners will develop strategies to use their power and influence to bring in external funding for their simulation centers via community partnerships and state funding.

Bryant Dissertation Defense
On February 5th, PhD student, Melissa Bryant, successfully defended her dissertation entitled, Leadership Practice Among Undergraduate Nursing Instructors. Dr. Janie Butts sat as her committee chair, which included Dr. J.T. Johnson, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, Dr. Patsy Anderson, and Dr. Lachel Story. Pictured (L-R) Dr. Janie Butts, Melissa Bryant, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, Dr. J.T. Johnson, and Dr. Lachel Story.

College of Nursing Dean Presents at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
On February 20th, Dean Nugent went to speak with members of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) about the College of Nursing Contributions and Impacts on health care. They were treated with a short clip of the students during clinical simulation.
College of Nursing Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Chin-Nu Lin has accepted an opportunity to present her poster entitled “Lowering Health Disparities by Leveling Cultural Competence”. She will be presenting at the Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy Eighth Health Disparities Conference in March in New Orleans.

Dr. Sat Ananda Hayden has had her abstract "Reverse Discrimination? Wages of Internationally Educated Nurses Working in the United States" accepted for an Oral presentation at Sigma Theta Tau International's 26th International Nursing Research Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico in July.

Holman Wins Awards at USM Gulf Coast Awards Day

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Holman for winning the Inaugural Student Choice Award at the USM Gulf Coast Awards Day! The essay written by the CON students addressing the reasons why Dr. Holman has made a difference in their academic journey was very impressive.
Dean Nugent Wins Crowd Favorite at Dancing with the Deans

The Student Nurses Association Hosts a Successful Bake Sale

College of Nursing Night at Reed Green Coliseum