Recently I had the pleasure to talk with several people who had recent experiences in health care facilities. The interesting information that I received was that each person told me a Southern Miss nurse took care of him or her during their hospital stay. The theme that emerged from these unsolicited conversations was that their nurse really made a positive difference in their experience.

These conversations caused me to reflect on an email that I received from a recent graduate stating that he enjoyed his job as a nurse and most of all, he enjoyed knowing at the end of the day that he had done something worthwhile that had made a positive impact on someone’s life.

Southern Miss Nursing is making a difference by providing quality programs that prepare our students to be competent in their practice. Nurses who have confidence in their knowledge base, clinical skills, and clinical decision-making instill trust in patients coping with health problems. This trust provides the foundation for positive health outcomes.

Southern Miss Nursing is: Transforming Nursing, Impacting Health Care.
Southern Miss College of Nursing Receives $1.6M Grant for Education, Training

The College of Nursing at The University of Southern Mississippi has received a $1.6 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support advanced nursing education and practice.

Funded through the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Advanced Nursing Education program, the three-year award will provide support to educate and train nurse practitioners – at the doctorate level – through academic-practice partnerships.

Dr. Anita Davis Boykins, associate dean of the College of Nursing and the grant program director, explains that students who are currently certified as a nurse practitioner will seek a new nurse practitioner certification through this program. The new certification will include either a post-graduate certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner or a Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner while receiving a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

“The dually certified nurse practitioner with a DNP degree will be prepared to address the physical and mental health needs of children, adolescents, and adults and serve as leaders in a new model of healthcare delivery, integrated primary care and behavioral healthcare services,” said Boykins.

Boykins points out that the program grant will produce a more qualified workforce to address key health problems in Mississippi, noting that the state suffers from a weak distribution of healthcare providers and a shortage of mental health providers.

“Nurse practitioners will not only be prepared to address the mental healthcare workforce shortage, but also provide accessible, timely, and efficient care to individuals with medical and psychiatric diagnoses in primary care and behavioral care settings,” said Boykins.

Dr. Katherine Nugent, dean of the College of Nursing at Southern Miss, considers the HRSA grant a win-win for the University, the College of Nursing and the South Mississippi region.

“The grant addresses the need for a better healthcare delivery model for patients who have both mental health and physical health needs through the preparation of advanced nurses who are prepared to practice in a complex, integrated care delivery model,” said Nugent. “The win-win is a stronger educational program, preparation of advanced practice nurses who have the leadership ability and the competencies to provide integrated care, and better healthcare for our community.”

Rayborn Represents the College of Nursing in Seoul, South Korea

Dr. Michong Rayborn, Assistant Professor, of the Nurse Anesthesia recently attended several conferences and meetings during her trip to Seoul, South Korea. See below for a timeline of her trip.

**June 14, 2015:** Met with Dr. You je-bong, President of Peri-Operative Nursing Association and discussed Korean Nurse Anesthesia Survey.

**June 15, 2015:** Met with Ms. Inn Yoo-young, Chief of Recovery/Operating room, and a few of the key members of General Nurse Anesthetists.

**June 15, 2015:** Presented to General Nurse Anesthetists at the Severance University Hospital: *Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist history and their contribution.*

**June 16, 2015:** Met with Dr. Jung Gye-Seon, President of Korean Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KANA). Discussed Korean Nurse Anesthesia Survey.


**June 19-23, 2015:** Attended International Council of Nurses (ICN) conference.


**June 22, 2015:** Presented at the ICN: *Nurse Anesthesia Workforce in the Republic of Korea: Examining Future Possibilities.*

**June 23, 2015:** Met with Dr. Che Myong –ae, General (Ret.) Park Sun-hwa to discuss future research related to Korean Nurses.

**June 27, 2015:** Met with Dr. Yoon Hae-sang, Dean of the College of Nursing at Gacheon University, discussed possible future collaboration in CRNA education with USM and research.