Dean’s Corner

After a very busy and successful spring semester, summer 2014 has started off with lots of excitement and many changes at the College of Nursing. With our new curriculum and two classes of nurse anesthesia students, our summer enrollment is higher than previous summers. Thus, the halls are filled with students creating a much livelier environment than in summers past. Since we were successful in our recruitment efforts and have new faculty and staff joining us, we are having to move faculty and offices. This yearly shuffle of offices and other rooms increase our anticipation of the beginning of construction on Asbury Hall, our new nursing building. In efforts to prepare for fall, Student Services is conducting frequent Preview sessions, sometimes, twice a week. With so much taking place, there is great opportunity for another successful year here at Southern Miss Nursing. Let’s keep the momentum going and make this summer another great semester!

Breaking New Ground, Transforming Health Care
College of Nursing Hosts Doctoral Journal Club Meeting

The USM College of Nursing hosted the 2014 Journal Club Seminar for Doctoral-Prepared Nurses on June 5th at the Trent Lott Center on the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. Faculty and students from USM and UMMC were present.

Presentations on scholarship opportunities for application of research were given by Dr. Christina Sieloff, Dr. Louanne Friend, Dr. Mona Wicks, and Dr. Lynn Langley. Doctoral students also presented posters detailing their dissertation and capstone projects. A special thanks to all who had a hand in making the event an overall success!
Senator Thad Cochran Visits the College of Nursing

Senator Thad Cochran made a stop by The University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing today and visited with faculty, staff and students. During his visit, plans for our new nursing building, Asbury Hall, were discussed.

Petal High School Students Visit the College of Nursing

On April 30th, the College of Nursing had the honor of hosting students from Petal High School's Allied Health Program and giving them a tour of our simulation areas. Students were impressed by the many capabilities of our Laerdal simulators and enjoyed the opportunity to partake in some scenarios.
Courtney Hampton-Bennett, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC, is a DNP Student at the College of Nursing. She is featured as an “Emerging Leader” by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Courtney had this to say about the DNP Program, “I enrolled in the DNP program to further my education as an expert clinician. The DNP program is preparing me with the necessary knowledge and tools to become a better mental healthcare provider. I am an Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at a long-term care facility, which is part of a state hospital. After enrolling in the DNP program, I now find myself reviewing literature more on how to improve healthcare outcomes for older adults with mental illness and implement best evidence-based practice. The DNP program also has provided me with a knowledge base which allows me to think outside of the box and utilize motivational communication skills to engage other healthcare professionals in acts of improving patient outcomes as well.

My experience in the program has given me the opportunity to serve as a nursing leader in implementing best evidence-based practice in my clinical site and advocate for patient safety. My plans after completing the program is to become more involved in publishing and research opportunities geared towards improving the quality of care of older adults. I also plan to continue in my role as a mental health nurse practitioner and later pursue a career as a nurse educator; teaching future nurses my clinical experiences and the valuable lessons the DNP program has taught me.”

Source: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/students/gnsa/gnsa-bulletin/2014/may

Lauren Atchison will be entering the BSN Program on the Gulf Coast this Fall. She was recently selected to the Southern Connection Leadership Team.

Throughout the year, Lauren and the team of student leaders will serve as hosts for orientation and registration events, Gold Rush, and as leadership ambassadors for a variety of university events, including Commencement and Welcome Week.

After completing an application and interview process, the students were selected based on leadership and communication skills, a desire to help new and returning students, creativity and commitment, and Southern Miss spirit. Members also receive a $500 scholarship for their commitment to the leadership team.

Dr. Davis’s Journal One of the Most Utilized Sources in USM’s Digital Community

The Online Journal of Health Ethics, edited by Dr. Sheila Davis in the College of Nursing, has a longstanding reputation among scholars in the field of health and nursing ethics. Since relocating to Aquila in summer 2013, it has become one of the most utilized resources on the site.

The Online Journal of Health Ethics is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that addresses and considers articles on ethical health related issues and the understanding of all aspects of public health.

All articles published by The Online Journal of Health Ethics are made freely and permanently accessible online immediately upon publication, without subscription charges or registration barriers. Additionally, authors of articles published in The Online Journal of Health Ethics are the copyright holders of their articles.

Aquila, which collects and preserves the research and scholarship of Southern Miss faculty and students, launched in January 2012 and has grown rapidly in the past two years.

Visit The Online Journal of Health Ethics at (http://aquila.usm.edu/ojhe/) and The University of Southern Mississippi’s digital community, Aquila, at (http://aquila.usm.edu/).
Dr. Hart to Serve as Chair on University Committee

Dr. Susan Hart, chair of the CNC Department at the College of Nursing, was nominated and accepted to serve as Chair of the University Assessment Committee. The University Assessment Committee supports the process of continual self-evaluation and improvement across all academic and administrative units. The Committee’s primary responsibility is to ensure that the institution complies with the Principles of Accreditation for Quality Enhancement published by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools with regards to assessment as stated in Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1: The institution identifies expected outcomes for its educational programs and its administrative and educational support services; assesses whether it achieves these outcomes; and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results.

Dr. Davis Receives Invitation to Serve on National Committee

Congratulations to Dr. Sheila Davis, Professor in Systems Leadership & Health Outcomes, for receiving an invitation to serve on the National Advisory Committee for Health Equity.

The Mississippi Roadmap to Health Equity is a state association, and is supported primarily by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, with additional funding from USDA and other sources. The Committee for Health Equity seeks to influence national approaches to addressing health equity. The National Advisory Board participates in the exchange of knowledge between the community, national leadership and researchers, and provides advice about the project’s strategies and plans.
The College of Nursing recognized all of the Class of 2014 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. The Gulf Park campus hosted their reception and pinning ceremonies at the Fleming Education Center.