Dean’s Corner

The phrase *March Madness* has a unique meaning to the collegiate basketball world. However, March Madness is also descriptive of the academic world as well. In the College of Nursing, March is a busy time for faculty and students. Activities include mid-term tests and grades, spring break, end of year awards and honors, and anticipation of graduation or progression to the next academic level.

There is also increased activity at the University level as we enter strategic planning, student success initiatives, celebration of Founder’s Day, and Dr. Bennett’s inauguration. Major construction, including the College of Business building, the new Century Park student housing and new student health center are just a few of the major projects that are ongoing. In addition, renovation related to the beautification of the front area of the university has begun.

All the activity indicates a vibrant and flourishing College of Nursing and University. This spring blossoming leaves us excited to see what the rest of 2014 has in store.
Johnson Helps to Update Policy at the USM Center for Child Development Policy

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. We 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.

Dr. Hughes and Dr. Newton Give Presentation at the 2014 International Meeting of Simulation in Healthcare

Dr. Cathy Hughes and Dr. Rebecca Newton gave a podium presentation at the 2014 International Meeting of Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) which is the annual conference for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare held in San Francisco, CA. The presentation "Building a Bridge to More Clinical Simulation: Planning and Implementation of a Large-scale Multi-site Study" based on participation in the National Council for State Boards of Nursing "National Simulation Study." Several nurse educators from other participating programs took part in the presentation as well as serving on an expert panel.

IMSH is the premier education meeting for healthcare simulation professionals and is held annually. Global authorities present the most up-to-date information as well as hands-on. IMSH offers optimum opportunities for learning and networking, and provides superior exposure to commercial products.
USM BSN Nursing Students Selected as Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Three senior USM BSN Nursing students, Torrel Bridges, Lane Hebert, and Cody Kaar were selected to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for 2014. More than two hundred USM Students were recently nominated, and fifty students were selected this year.

USM College of Nursing Welcomes First Class of Student Nursing Ambassadors

The following students were selected as the first installment of College of Nursing Student Ambassadors: Errol Vance, Olivia Vaughan, Kayla Forbis, Erica Thompson, Jennifer Foster, Lauren Phillippi. These students will help out in events throughout the College of Nursing.

Allied Health Students visit Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast College of Nursing recently had all three Allied Health classes from Long Beach High School visit. Dr. Holman had them demonstrate some things they knew and also helped them to understand why they do certain things with patients, such as getting them in and out of the bed, keeping them covered for privacy, and talking to the patient to make them feel comfortable.

The students enjoyed coming to our campus, and we enjoyed having them.
SNA Volunteers at HOSA Conference

The College of Nursing’s Student Nurses’ Association volunteered at this year’s Health Occupational Students of America (HOSA) conference held at Hattiesburg High School. Students helped judge the events and promoted the College of Nursing to the high school students. The participants for the College of Nursing include Dr. Tinnon, Mrs. Hossley, Jason Giangrosso, Michelle Madden, Natalie Thrash, Cori Cox, Cuong Ngo, Chelsea Barnett, Deborah Gunn, and Errol Vance.

Former USM College of Nursing Dean Inducted into Mississippi Nurses Association Hall of Fame

On Monday, March 3rd, former Dean of the University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing, the late Dr. Gerry Cadenhead Fletcher, was inducted into the Mississippi Nurses Association Hall of Fame at the Nightingale Awards Gala in Jackson. Colonel Tyler Fletcher, widower of Dr. Cadenhead Fletcher, and his son, Dr. Gardner Fletcher, accepted the award. We as a College, were honored to celebrate her life and work in the field of nursing with the Fletcher family, friends and colleagues. What an amazing legacy she left for us here at the Southern Miss College of Nursing.
Gulf Coast Campus Hosts Southern Miss Showcase

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast campus hosted a county wide recruitment effort on February 13th. All local Junior colleges and high schools were contacted to send potential students to the Gulf Park Campus. Each student designated the college they wanted to visit from 10:30-12pm. The College of Nursing had 40 students attend.

The students were met in our makeshift ambulance, driven by Dr. Holman. The students were walked over to the Nursing building where they were broken out into three groups. Each group then had the opportunity to learn about pediatrics from Dr. Chatham and Dr. Coyne. They then visited with Dr. Holman and Mrs. Gore where they got to watch our new SimMan 3G as well as listen to respiration and heartbeats. Last they would visit with Dr. Bishop who told them much about our programs and things to focus on in order to get in to our programs at USM. We feel that the recruitment effort was a wonderful success.

Student Lounge Gets A Makeover

The College of Nursing student lounge, located on the second floor of Elizabeth Harkins Hall, recently received a complete overhaul in order to make it more conducive to student activity.

New furniture was purchased to better accommodate students studying privately and in groups. Also, the walls were updated with new paint and pictures. Fun, mod area rugs provide an element of comfort and aid in separating the different pods of furniture. We love seeing our students utilize this revamped area and hope that it provides a great space for them to study!
Stake your claim in the Southern Miss Gold Rush

The Southern Miss Gold Rush is a 36-hour, online fundraising event that encourages University alumni, students, employees and friends to come together and support their favorite areas of the University. From noon on March 25 through midnight on March 26, every gift to the USM Foundation will help show the impact we can make on the future of Southern Miss.

You can choose the area that means the most to you from the many giving opportunities through the USM Foundation. Whether you support the University’s greatest needs with a gift to the Southern Miss Fund or invest in scholarships, programs or campus construction, 100 percent of every gift to the campaign will support its intended purpose.

Visit www.southernmissgoldrush.com to make your gift March 25-26, and join the rush with the hashtag #usmgoldrush on your social media outlets.

College of Nursing Professional Career Day

The College of Nursing hosted their Professional Career Day, March 6th at Elizabeth Harkins Hall. Twenty-two vendors were in attendance to answer student questions about future employment opportunities.