Anthony Curry, senior nursing major from Hattiesburg, is willing to go wherever the opportunity takes him after graduation. Introduced to the field of nursing in high school, Anthony is a first generation college student who plans to make a difference through healthcare. Upon graduation, he plans to gain experience in the field before returning to school to earn his nurse practitioner degree. As a family nurse practitioner, Anthony hopes to provide primary care in medically underserved areas.

Click Here to Watch the Interview

Breaking New Ground, Transforming Health Care
Davis Named Nurse Innovator of the Year

Dr. Shelia Davis was named the 2015 Nurse Innovator of the Year at the Mississippi Nurses’ Association Nightingale Awards.

USM Gulf Coast Hosts Showcase

On March 4th, Dr. Elizabeth Holman demonstrated the features of SimMan 3G to local high school students at the Gulf Coast Showcase. This was an opportunity for seniors to see what the USM Gulf Coast campus has to offer.
March PhD Dissertation Defenses

PhD student, Tangela Hales, successfully defended her dissertation titled, *Efficacy of Behavioral Interventions in African-Americans with Type II Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Analysis*. Dr. Lachel Story was her committee chair, which included Drs. Janie Butts, Patsy Anderson, Bonnie Harbaugh, and Alyce Adams.

Wendy Buenzli earned her PhD in Nursing Leadership after a strong defense of her dissertation: *A Measure of Soft Skill Gains Acquisition with Engagement in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs*. Dr. Buenzli currently resides in Spokane, Washington, where she is the Associate Dean of Spokane Community College. Dr. Sheila Davis served as her committee chair, and her committee members include, Dr. Anita Boykins, Dr. Kay Lundy, Dr. Lachel Story, and her external member from the University of New Hampshire, Dr. Gwendolyn Britton.

Our very own Sharon McDonald successfully defended her dissertation, *Use of Dietary and Herbal Supplements in Older Adults with Osteoarthritis*. Dr. McDonald presently teaches in the CNC Department and has been at The USM College of Nursing since 2000. Her major clinical and research interest is with older adults and the use of Complementary and Integrated Medicine.

Dr. McDonald presently serves as Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Lambda Chapter President, and has been a longtime adviser of the Christian Nursing Fellowship Organization. Dr. Kathleen Masters is to be congratulated for successfully chairing Dr. McDonald’s dissertation. Also to be congratulated are her committee members Dr. Janie Butts, Dr. Yen To, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, and her external member from University of Alabama, Norma Cuellar, PhD, RN, FAAN.
March DNP Capstone Project Defenses

DNP student, Lisa Morgan, successfully defended her capstone project titled, *Using Technology to Improve Diabetes Self-Management within a Federally Qualified Community Health Center*. Dr. Melanie Gilmore served as her committee chair. Committee members were Dr. Patsy Anderson and Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh.

DNP student, Carolyn Coleman, successfully defended her capstone project titled, *Evidence-Based Strategies to Minimize the Risk for Opioid Pain Medication Misuse Among Patients with Chronic Pain in the Primary Care Setting*. Dr. Anita Boykins served as her committee chair and committee members included Drs. Janie Butts, Patsy Anderson, and Lynn Langley.

DNP student, Donna Honour, successfully defended her capstone project titled, *Implementation of the Transition to Practice Regulatory Model for Nurse Preceptors in a Rural Setting*. Dr. Patsy Anderson served as her committee chair with Dr. Anita Boykins serving on the committee.

DNP student, Stephanie Parks, successfully defended her capstone project titled, *Reducing the Risks of Wrong Site Surgery Using the Joint Commission’s Targeted Solutions Tool for Safe Surgery*. Dr. Mary Coyne served as her committee chair and Dr. Patsy Anderson served as a committee member.
Dr. Boykins presented “Beyond the Sexual Assault Nurse Examination: From Victim to Survivor” for the USM Women's History Month event.

Drs. Janie Butts, Lachel Story, and Mary Coyne recruited at the Mississippi Organization of Associate Degree Nurses Conference, held at the Vicksburg Convention Center.

College of Nursing Hosted the Spring 2015 Professional Career Day

The College of Nursing hosted their Spring 2015 Professional Career Day, March 19th at Elizabeth Harkins Hall. Twenty-three vendors from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama attended the Spring 2015 Professional Career Day. This was the perfect opportunity for students to talk to potential employers and make that first impression. The event was a complete success.

Nursing Students Recognized at Founders' Day

Several USM College of Nursing students were recognized at the 105th anniversary of the legislative founding of the University of Southern Mississippi. Pre-nursing student, William Allen, was selected as a Joseph Paul Scholarship recipient. William will be entering into the BSN program Fall 2015.

Anthony Curry, a senior BSN student was recognized as Best Citizen Male and Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities. Senior BSN nursing students, Casey Adkins and Casey Polk were also recognized as Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities.