Dr. Masters Recognized at USM Faculty Awards

The College of Nursing would like to congratulate Dr. Kathleen Masters for being recognized at the USM Faculty Awards Day, for receiving a Summer Grant for Improvement of Instruction. The overall goal of the grant project entitled, Development of Simulation and Debriefing Experiences Designed to Enhance Nursing and Dietetic Student Skills in Interdisciplinary Collaboration is to facilitate collaborative interdisciplinary experiences for nursing and dietetics students using simulation. Dr. Elaine Molaison and Dr. Carol Connell from the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems have partnered with Dr. Masters to facilitate achievement of the project goal.
The College of Nursing (CoN) hosted its first combined presentation of honors student theses on April 18th. Three students summarized their research at the event attended by CoN staff, faculty, students, and guests.

Ms. Kirstin Kellar’s research, The Effect of Patient Behavior and Race/Ethnicity on the Titration of Opioid Analgesia, was conducted in a local hospital. Ms. Kellar based her study on current research indicating that postoperative pain is often underdiagnosed and undertreated. She pointed out that nurses are usually the ‘lynchpin to adequate pain control’. Kirstin’s results indicated that perioperative nurses in the study lacked knowledge regarding pain management that may hinder the provision of optimal care. Recommendations of the study included to increase education to nurses. Ms. Kellar’s thesis advisor was Dr. Marjorie Everson.

Ms. Nicki Relan’s case study, Effectiveness of Individualizing Interventions Informed by the Hierarchic Dementia Scale to reduce Aggressive Behavior in People with Alzheimer’s Disease, was conducted in a long term care facility. The interventions Ms. Relan developed based on the results of the Hierarchic Dementia Scale reduced aggressive behavior in a single resident by nearly 30%. The potential of this scale to help decrease aggressive behavior in clients with Alzheimer’s disease may aide in improving their quality of life, and Ms. Relan’s recommendations included increasing its use by practicing nurses and nurse researchers. Ms. Relan’s thesis advisor was Dr. Elizabeth Harrison.

Ms. Robin Smith’s qualitative study, Attitudes of Registered Nurses’ in Southern Mississippi toward Physician Assisted Death, utilized the results of interviews with three Mississippi registered nurses to determine the presence or absence of support for legalizing physician assisted death (PAD) in Mississippi. She also sought to determine factors that influenced participants’ attitudes toward PAD. One of the strongest findings of Ms. Smith’s study was the relationship between the nurses’ religious beliefs and their support for physician assisted death. She recommends further research on a larger scale in order to better understand nurses’ attitudes toward PAD. Ms. Smith’s thesis advisor was Dr. Janie Butts.
Christian Nurses Fellowship had an awesome semester sharing the love of Christ with fellow students and our community. We had the opportunity to serve the Golden Eagle Intertribal Society by providing lunch for their Pow Wow's Friday Feed. In April, CNF teamed up with United Blood Services to hold a blood drive on campus, and we also hosted a National Marrow Registry drive. We finished off our semester by collecting children's books for Miss USM's non-profit organization, "Pages of Love", in order to provide children in hospitals around the country with books to read. It was a blessing to share Christ's love and serve others through these activities, and we look forward to what the next school year holds!

Submitted by Lauren Johnson, CNF President
Dr. Vincent’s Poster Accepted for National Conference

Sharon Vincent, DNP, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Collaborative Care Department has had a poster accepted at a National Conference. Her poster, “Exploring the Use of the Acute Heart Failure Management Tool to Reduce Re-hospitalization” will be presented at the 2013 Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference taking place September 25 - 27, 2013 in Phoenix, AZ.

Congratulations

Dr. Geisz-Everson to be Funderburg Lecturer

Dr. Marjorie Geisz-Everson, has accepted an invitation to be the 2013 Funderburg Lecturer in connection with the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ALANA) Fall Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, September 21, 2013. Marjorie will lecture for four hours, her visit will be funded by the Funderburg Lecture Endowment of Samford University.

Dr. Patsy Anderson and Dr. Karen Rich participated in the USM Career Day on the Gulf Coast campus with Long Beach School District career discovery students.
The College of Nursing recognized all of the Class of 2013 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.