Asbury Hall Progress Moving Forward

The construction progress of the future home of the College of Nursing, Asbury Hall, is moving along very well. Crews have poured the first floor slab of concrete and are now installing steel columns for the second floor, on what will be a state of the art three-story building. Stay current with the building progress by visiting the Eagle Eye view of the live construction.
Nationally Recognized Nursing Scholar Leads Writing for Publication Workshop

The College of Nursing Research Interest Group provides opportunities for faculty and students to engage in lively discussions about nursing research topics and designs, proposal development, grant writing and more. A Research Interest Group workshop was held on October 28th with Dr. Cindy L. Munro presenting on scholarly writing techniques for publications. Dr. Munro is the Southern Nurses Research Society president, Co-editor for the American Journal of Critical Care, and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at the University of South Florida. She has over 100 publications, 10 years of NIH funding, and she has conducted numerous writing workshops. The workshop was for students and faculty to learn more about disseminating their research findings through publications. During the workshop, faculty and students gained basic knowledge on writing manuscripts as well as strategies for promoting writing and increasing publications.

PhD Nursing Student Competes in the Three Minute Thesis Competition

This year, The University of Southern Mississippi Graduate School hosted its first annual Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT). The competition was a 2-day event, and competitors were Master’s level and doctoral level students from all academic disciplines. Tomekia Earl, a second-year PhD nursing student competed in the preliminary round with her qualitative pilot study, The Experiences of Minority Nurses in Mississippi Advancing through Career Mobility. Competitors in this phase were allowed to use one single, static PowerPoint and explain their research study in three minutes. Each competitor was then judged, and selected to compete in the final event for a $1,000 prize. Mrs. Earl did not proceed beyond the preliminary round, as the event was very competitive. “It was a great experience, one that I encourage all students to participate in”, enthused Earl.
Students in the DNP program are excelling in and outside of the classroom. These talented students have been recognized for their scholarship, research, and leadership within the nursing community.

Laurie Hamilton is the recipient of the 2014-2016 Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar grant award. Laurie began her studies in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program this year. The Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar program will enable her to complete a leadership project in her doctoral studies. Laurie is a family nurse practitioner and her Jonas Scholar leadership project will address the goal of increasing the number of advanced practice nurses providing direct patient care and advancing interprofessional collaboration. She will focus on the national priority area of care coordination and address the needs of an underrepresented population in the state of Mississippi. Her faculty mentor is Dr. Melanie Gilmore.

This is the second grant award of $20,000 that the College of Nursing has received from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. As a recipient of the Jonas Center grant, The College of Nursing is part of a national effort to address the nursing faculty shortage and is committed to leadership development for a scholar that is interested in being a leader in primary care.

Dr. Lynn Langley was selected as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Board of Nursing in July 2014.

Dr. Sharon Catledge was re-elected as the President of the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

Dr. Josie Alejandros recently completed a research study, "Comparison of nursing students’ final exam scores before and after a modified lecture strategy”, at the Philippine Women's University School of Nursing. While in the Philippines, she coordinated a medico-legal mission along with other members of other family. She recently retired from Keesler Medical Center after working 20 years in the Intensive Care Unit and is now an adjunct nursing faculty member at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jefferson Davis (JD) campus.

Dr. Jacquelyn Brownlow was selected as the Nurse Educator of the year for Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (M-OADN) in March 2014.
Dr. Davis Presents at Health Disparities Seminar in Jackson

Dr. Sheila Davis gave a presentation entitled, “The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of Dirty Medicine: Implications for Health Disparities”, at the Health Disparities Seminar in Jackson, MS on November 13, 2014.

Scenes from Gulf Coast Simulation

Fundamental students first day in the simulation lab. They did great. The clinical group cared for three different patients.

This is a student turning a seizing patient and implementing safety. She seized for one minute and then the students treated her hypertension.

PMHNP Attend Certification Exam Review

Psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) program students, alumni, and faculty met for lunch recently while attending a PMHNP certification exam review and advanced practice update course in Pascagoula, MS.
College of Nursing Faculty Present Research Findings at the 40th annual Transcultural Nursing Society Conference in Charleston, SC.

The Transcultural Nursing Society (TCNS) held its 40th annual conference in Charleston South Carolina in October 2014. Nurses and nurse researchers from around the world interested in promoting culturally competent equitable healthcare attend the TCNS international conference globally. Dr. Lachel Story, Assistant Dean of Research presented her findings Evaluating Community Health Advisor (CHA) Core Competencies: The CHA Core Competency Retrospective Pre/Post-Test. Dr. Story’s presentation was enthusiastically received by attendees with possibilities of future translation of her instrument into different languages.

Dr. K. Michelle Pendergrass, Asbury Endowed Distinguished Professor presented a poster presentation: Deaf: A Concept Analysis using Wilson Method. The poster presentation sparked interest in having Deaf culture included in future cultural awareness literature.