

STATEside News



Arkansas State University, College of Nursing and Health Professions, State University, AR 72467-0910

Spring 2016

Jonesboro, AR

STATEside News

AMERICA'S BEST NURSING SCHOOLS

by Dr. Angela Schmidt, Associate Dean

The School of Nursing has been selected as the highest ranked nursing program in Arkansas and as one of the top 10 collegiate nursing programs in the eastern region of the United States. The nursing program at Arkansas State University is one of the largest on campus in terms of enrollment and ranks highly among degrees conferred. Among majors by college, nursing ranks second for undergraduates and graduates.

The Nurse Journal organization recognizes nursing programs for providing a quality education at a reasonable cost and for offering educational options that make it easier for today's busy students to attend. Their mission is to educate, inform, and share information.

To determine the ranking as the #1 Nursing School in Arkansas, 1,189 schools were evaluated by 20 metrics in five categories: quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction, and value. Most of the data used to determine rankings came from the Institute of Education Sciences, Rate My Professors, PayScale, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the state Boards of Nursing, and individual school websites. The five categories included the following metrics: Quality (NCLEX Pass Rate, Institutional Accreditation, Nursing Program Accreditation, Highest Degree Offered, Graduation Rate); Affordability (Tuition and Fees, Financial Aid Percent, Percent of Tuition and Fees Received as Aid, Student Loans, Net price); Convenience (Distance education options, Weekend/evening classes available, Online or hybrid nursing program); Satisfaction (1st- to 2nd-

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ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of
Nursing & Health Professions

Dean's Corner

It always seems like a "fresh start" to begin a new year. For the college, nothing will be really "new or fresh" in 2016 because we have so many things in progress. Our work seems to be very dynamic in nature and usually spans a multitude of years. The things we have going on include the continued evolution of our OTA and OTD programs, development of EMT/Paramedic programming, recrafting of our Graduate Certificate in Aging Studies, formal documentation to support Graduate Certificates in Nurse Educator and Nurse Administrator and implementation of our heavily revised MIRS curriculum.

We will have an on-site accreditation visit in late January for our OTA program. Our self-study for the dietetics program was sent before the holiday break. Many annual accreditation updates/reviews have taken place and paperwork seems to be the "flavor of the day". Even though it is very time consuming and often stressful, it is important for external entities to objectively review our work.

We have made progress on some new spaces in the college that will maximize our ability to educate, do research and provide service delivery. The lab we will use to support EMT/Paramedic education has been designed. Research work is already taking place in our Phototherapy Institute. One project involves osteoarthritis and another is a study on listeria. We have acquired a driving simulator that we will use for evaluation, education and research purposes. We will also configure an additional mini-simulation lab in support of interdisciplinary education. There is

certainly lots of good work going on and you will see more of it as you read the department updates and the additional articles in this newsletter.

In a new year, it is always good to thank our supportive clinical sites who take so many of our students for that portion of their professional education. We contract with over 500 sites. We could not operate quality programs without you.

Our alumni continue to provide the discretionary resources that we need to do "bigger and better" things. Our special thanks to them for believing in the work we do. We have other friends out there who provide all types of support including advocacy, legislative and monetary. We are grateful for their attention and work. Faculty and staff in this college "are the best" in my opinion. Students will echo those sentiments and, as you know, we have excellent students as well. What a collaborative effort! We are thankful for all of our quality partners and extend best wishes for a memorable 2016.

And on a very sad note to start off the new year, we lost one of our former faculty members to her long, hard fought battle with kidney cancer. Rebecca Matthews touched many of our lives (faculty and staff) and certainly a large number of students. See attached article on "Reflections of Rebecca".

Susan Hanrahan,
Dean

College of Nursing
& Health Professions



COLLEGE NEWS

DR. STEPHEN GUFFEY (PT) and **BILL PAYNE** (CLS) had a manuscript titled, "Susceptibility of

Trichopyton Mentagrophytes to Visible Light Wavelengths" accepted for publication in

Advances in Skin & Wound Care Journal.

CLINICAL LAB SCIENCE

ANNETTE BEDNAR has been selected to present a lunch n'learn session titled "Surviving Academia – It's a Jungle Out There!" and a breakout session on ASCLS Professionalism titled "You CAN Make a Difference!" at the 2016

American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference in Minneapolis, MN, on Feb. 25-27, 2016.

DR. STACY WALZ was selected for the Leadership Jonesboro Program by the Jonesboro Regional

Chamber of Commerce. She has also been selected to present "Ensuring Competency of Medical Laboratory Professionals" at the Quality Reflections in Laboratory Medicine conference on March 14-15, in Antwerp, Belgium.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

DR. AMY SHOLLENBARGER co-authored a manuscript titled "Applications of log-linear analysis and logistic regression analysis: Association of Factors in First Graders' Awareness of Final Consonant Clusters in Monomorphemic Words"

that was published in JSM Proceedings by the American Statistical Association, Aug. 2015.

She also presented poster sessions titled "Using Book Clubs to Facilitate Knowledge about

Neurogenic Communication Disorders" and "College Students' Knowledge About Stuttering" at the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Conference, on Nov. 12-14, 2015 in Denver, CO.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DR. DEBBIE PERSELL has been selected by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Training Program to participate in a two-day review of grant applications for

development and implementation of Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training, on February 9-10, 2016 in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Congratulations to **DR. BRENT COX** on earning his Doctorate of Management from Colorado Technical University.

NURSING

TERESA FISHER gave a podium presentation titled "The effects of Awareness Activities in Education" at the Teaching and Learning Symposium on Oct. 27, at A-State. She completed 14 courses and 106 contact hours, earning the Nurse Manager Certificate from Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society and served as a delegate for the Eta Theta Chapter at their 43rd Biennial Convention on Nov 7-11, 2015, in Las Vegas, NV. Fisher was also nominated for the Wilson You Made a Difference Advor Award.

LORI HAILEY was selected Professor of the Month for December by the Learning Outcomes Advisory Council and Office of Assessment.

MANDY KOEKEMOER and **DR. LIBBY NIX** presented a poster titled "Seeking out Unique Student Opportunities to Learn About Acute and Chronic Illness in the Rehabilitation Setting" and **ERIN STEGALL** and **DR. LIBBY NIX** presented a poster titled "Accelerated Nursing: Nursing School on Steroids, Combining Clinical Experiences with Simulations" at the Annual Conference of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, on Oct. 28-30, 2015, in Scottsdale, AZ.

DR. LIBBY NIX presented a poster titled, "Engaging Pre-Nursing Students into an Awareness of Nursing as an Art Form: Using IPAD Technology" at the Sigma Theta Tau International conference on Nov. 6-11, 2015, in Las Vegas, NV.

DR. PHYLLIS SKORGA co-authored an article titled, "Vitamin D Supplementation for Prevention of Mortality in Adults" published in the International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare, 12(4), 269-271, and an article titled "Transdermal Fentanyl for Cancer Pain" published in Clinical Nurse Specialist, 28(5), 264-265. She also authored an article titled, "Benefits of Vitamin D Supplementation in Aging Adults" that was published in Partners, the Arkansas Geriatric Education Center Newsletter, 12(4), 269-271.

DR. DEBBIE SHELTON made podium presentations titled "The Responsibility and Risk Involved in the Use of Advanced Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging" at the 2015 National Conference: Celebrating 50 years of Nurse Practitioners on Jun. 9-14, 2015, in New Orleans, LA and "The Pros and Cons of Advanced Diagnostic Imaging" at the Arkansas Nurses Association 102nd

Annual ARNA Convention on Oct. 22-23, 2015, in Little Rock, AR. She also co-authored an article titled, "ARNA Committee for Health Policy: Arkansas Legislature Update" for Arkansas Nursing News, Vol 11, Issue 1, a chapter titled "Community Health and Promotion" for Social Work Practice in Healthcare, Sage Publications, Inc., 2016, two articles titled "Committee for Health Policy Update (Part 1)" and "Committee for Health Policy Update (Part 2)" for Arkansas Nurses Association website www.arna.org. Shelton will serve as an abstract reviewer for the NONPF 42nd Annual Meeting: Crossing Boundaries in NP Education on April 12-17, 2016, in Seattle, WA. Shelton is also serving as secretary-treasurer for the Northeast Arkansas Advanced Practice Association, treasurer for Arkansas Nursing Association, APRN chair for the Health Policy Committee of the Arkansas Nursing Association and is a co-founder of the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association.

DR. LINDA TATE had a paper titled "Temporal Discounting Rates and Their Relation to Exercise Behavior in Older Adults" accepted for publication in *Physiology & Behavior* 152 (2015) 295-299.

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

JOANNA CUPP and **PAM TOWERY** attended the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo held in Nashville, TN, October 3-6, 2015. They also participated in the Student Recruitment Fair on Oct. 4, 2015.

PAM TOWERY presented a session titled "Development of Professional Behaviors in Dietetic Students" the 2015 ASAHP Annual Conference in Scottsdale, AZ, on Oct. 29, 2015.

The **NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE PROGRAM** sponsored a Preceptor Training meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015. Fifteen preceptors from various clinical sites toured the nutrition lab space, participated in a training presentation.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

DR. TRACY MORRISON presented "*The Development of a Health Risk Assessment for the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit*" at the third annual Health Disparities Conference on Nov. 11, 2015 at Arkansas State University. She has been

selected to present "*The Assessment of Functional Cognition and Executive Function Using the Multiple Errands Test-Revised (MET-R)*" at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in Apr. 2016, in Chicago, IL.

The **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM** has received pre-accreditation status from ACOTE. This means the program moves to the next step in the accreditation process which will be the site visit scheduled in late January 2016.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

BECKY KEITH has been selected to participate in training in Little Rock, AR, to become certified as a brain injury specialist by the

Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists. **SHE** was also elected to a position on the Central Panel of the Commission on

Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education for a term beginning Jan 1, 2015 through Dec 31, 2019.

RADIOLOGIC SCIENCE

DEANNA BARYMON gave a poster presentation at the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Conference in Dallas, TX, on October 1-4, 2015, titled "Low Level Light Therapy vs Traditional Exercise: Sonographic Assessment of the Median Nerve in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome".

CHERYL DUBOSE had an article titled, "*Five Ways to Strengthen your State Society*" published in the Oct/Nov issue of ASRT Scanner. She was selected to sit on the Editorial Review Boards for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Association of Educators in Imaging and

Radiation Sciences. Ms. DuBose also represented the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology for a meeting of the Image Gently initiative, which was held during the weeklong Radiological Society of North America 100th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.

AMBER WOOTEN was selected to present a lecture titled "*Listen Up! Tips for Successful Patient Communication*" and a poster session titled, "*Sonographic and Clinical Comparison of Canine vs. Human Hypothyroidism*" at the Association of Collegiate Educators

in Radiologic Technology conference in Las Vegas, NV, on Feb. 3-5, 2016.

VERONICA MANNING was selected as the 2016 national recipient of the Elsevier Faculty Scholarship. This \$1,000 award is given to a Radiologic Science educator pursuing a graduate degree in education, healthcare or imaging sciences degree. This award will be presented to her at the National meeting in Las Vegas, Feb. 5-7.

SOCIAL WORK

The **COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION** has voted to reaffirm accreditation of the Master's Social Work program for 8 years, ending in Oct 2023.

DR. KAREN AUL gave a platform presentation titled "Assessment Methodology to Evaluate Undergraduate Nursing Students' Critical Thinking" at the A-State Faculty 2015 Teaching and Learning Symposium on Oct. 27, 2015.

DR. REJOICE ADDAE and **DR. LARRY MORTON** presented "*Health Disparities in American Indian and Alaska Natives*" and **DR. MORTON** presented "*Addressing the Needs of Students with Invisible Disabilities in Social Work Education*" at the Council for Social Work Education Conference on Oct. 17, 2015 in Denver, CO.

KENYA DUNCAN presented "*Mandated Reporting: Signs and Symptoms of Child Maltreatment*" to Physical Therapist Assistant Students on Sept. 24, 2015. She also made the following

presentations to DCFS: "*Maximizing Parent/Child Interaction During Supervised Visitation*" in July 2015, "*Managing Difficult Encounters with Domestic Violence Cases*" in Nov. 2015, "*Trauma Informed Care: Engagement, Enquiry and Education*" in Sep. and Oct., 2015, "*Families Affected by Domestic Violence*" in Oct. 2015 and "*Preparation for and Participation in Judicial Proceedings*" and "*Preserving and Strengthening and Reunifying Families*", May and Jul. 2015.

KAREN FULLEN presented, "*Services Disparities for Transitional Youth*" at the A-State Annual Health Disparities Conference, Nov. 11, 2015.

NATALIE GATLIN presented "*How to Maintain Super Hero Status without Losing Your Sense of Self*" at the NEA Annual Foster Parent Conference in Oct. 17, 2015. She also made the following presentations to DCFS workers: "*Managing Difficult Encounters with Domestic Violence Cases*" in Nov. 2015; "*Trauma Informed Care: Engagement, Enquiry and Education*", in Oct.

2015, co-presented "*Substance Abuse*" in Sep. 2015, "*Improving Worker Communication Skills*" in Jun., 2015 and "*Effective Interviewing, Assessment and Engagement with Families*" in March, 2015.

TRISH HOLT made the following presentations to the DCFS agency: "*Trauma Informed Care: Engagement, Enquiry and Education*", two presentations in Oct. 2015 and one in Sep. 2015; "*Supervisor Leadership Training: Development of the Child Welfare Workforce*", Sep. 2015; "*Supervisor Leadership Training: Bridging the Gap*"; Sep. 2015; and "*Ethical Decision Making in Child Welfare*", April, 2015.

DR. JODY LONG had a research study titled "*The Empty Chair Appointment*" accepted for publication with Sage Open. He presented "*Combating Ageism and Health Disparities with the Geriatric Rural Population*" at the 3rd Annual A-State Health Disparities Conference on Nov. 11, 2015.

WELCOME TO:

DR. PAMELA LEWIS-KIPKULEI, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

SAM MARCERI, Assistant Professor of

Nursing

LORENA THOMPSON, Assistant Professor of Nurse Anesthesia

CATHERINE WILLIS, Administrative Specialist II, Occupational Therapy

GOOD-BYE TO:

KELLY MCCOY: Project Program Manager Beck PRIDE Center for America's Wounded Veterans

DR. PHYLLIS SKORGA, Professor of Nursing

DR. KATHY WREN: Nurse Anesthesia Program Director

IN SYMPATHY:

DR. SHAWN DRAKE on the loss of her father, Joe DePriest

LINDA LATTING on the loss of her mother, Patricia Ann Fate

The Family of **DR. REBECCA MATTHEWS,** former Associate Professor of Nursing

GRANTS/CONTRACTS

DR. KAREN AUL: \$1,130 Provost's Seed Grant Scholar's Award for a proposal titled "*The Effect of Using a Food and Fitness iPad Application to Increase Obesity Awareness: A Nursing Student Cohort Study*"

DRS. STEPHEN GUFFEY and **SUSAN MOTTS:** \$3,563 Provost's Seed Grant Scholar's Award for the "*Arkansas State University Phototherapy Institute*"

DRS. REJOICE ADDAE, EVELYN TAYLOR, PATRICIA WALLS, JODY LONG and **PATRICIA WILKERSON** received a \$2,500 Provost's Seed Grant Scholar's Award for their proposal titled, "*Patterns of Alcohol Use Among Arkansas State University Students.*"

DR. CRISTY PHILLIPS submitted a \$25,491 grant proposal titled "*Measure of Voluntary Movement in Health and Disease*" to Arkansas INBRE.

DR. EVELYN TAYLOR and **DR. JODY LONG** submitted a \$10,000 grant proposal titled "*Lifetime Coping Skills and Mental Health for the Student-Athlete*" for the NCAA Innovations in Research Grant.

DR. PAIGE WIMBERLEY submitted a \$2,750 grant proposal titled "*Physician Influences on Nurses Intention to Report Suspected Cases of Child Abuse*" to Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Reflections on Rebecca

by Susan Hanrahan, Dean

Despite all of the sadness associated with the death of Dr. Matthews, I wanted to spend a little time sharing why she was so important to our college and what her loss means to us.

She resigned her faculty position May 15, 2015, because she didn't think she could do the "quality" of work she wanted to do since her treatment regimen took her to Nashville every two weeks. That was Rebecca—all about quality.

She was also "grateful" for her nine years at A-State and the opportunities she was given. She loved her colleagues and her students and she had a particular fondness for the Healthy-Ager program (Shawn, students and the healthy-agers themselves). That was Rebecca—capitalizing on every significant opportunity and immersing herself into that activity to understand it, enhance it and "own" it.

Despite the fact she was ill, her concern was more about caring for her family and her parents, in which she expressed the need to care for them was greater than ever. The same could be said for her work with colleagues and her students. That was Rebecca—absolutely all about everyone else but herself.

When she first came to the university from the not-for-profit world I recall a conversation we had expressing the fact that teaching was so different than what she thought. Her students evaluations were not as good as she wanted them to be and maybe she should consider leaving academia. I asked her to give it some time because the role required a transition

period and it was absolutely a new process. So, what did she do—she immersed herself in continuing education activities to enhance her teaching and knowledge, attending the Blackboard Learn boot camp, incorporating technology, like iTunes U, and using new teaching methods like the "flipped classroom," which apparently served her very well. Her student evaluations immediately began reflecting how wonderful and knowledgeable she was in her teaching role. That was Rebecca—always striving for perfection.

Rebecca never left the community behind when she came to the university. Her work on the Red Cross board, committee member for Total Life HealthCare, Chair of the Jonesboro Community Transportation Board, Board President for The Better Life Counseling Center, providing expert testimony regarding safe sleep environments for infants 0-12 months to reduce the incidence of SIDS (state law was subsequently revised—the list goes on and on. That was Rebecca—using her knowledge and expertise to make a difference in our community and across the state.

Never to be one satisfied with her level of knowledge, Rebecca earned a certificate in Meta-Analysis, maintained her International Board Certification as a Lactation Consultant, completed the Chronic Disease in Self-Management Lay-Leader program, was "A Matter of Balance" coach and completed summer programming through the Arkansas Geriatric Training Center among other comprehensive topical areas. That was Rebecca—she was passionate about lifelong learning.

Scholarship was new to her when she came to

the university—but not for long. She quickly had articles in press, was speaking on her research work nationally and internationally, worked with the research office to prepare a NIH R15 grant proposal, was a textbook reviewer, on an editorial board and even completed her doctoral work while she was at A-State. That was Rebecca—eager to establish new skill sets which included acquisition of data and dissemination of her evidence-based work.

And speaking of international, I had the pleasure to visit China with Rebecca and her daughter—a trip she led on behalf of the college. That was Rebecca—always exploring lands "unknown" to her (including her love of our shared passion—hiking).

Leading—another of her strengths at the university and beyond. Leading the Faculty Research Awards Committee, chairing work documenting nursing accreditation standards, chairing School of Nursing goal plans, president of ARNA District 6, etc. That was Rebecca—stepping up to the plate to communicate, organize, problem solve and lead.

I have just barely touched on her importance to our college, but let me share what others have also noted. Former university president, Dr. Les Wyatt—"GIANT loss to our community;" Melanie Mata (nursing faculty)—"She was the yen to a lot of our zen in the dept;" Erin Stegall (nursing faculty)—"grateful to have gained a bit of wisdom from her before her departure from this earth. I will continue to lead and live by her example;" and Brenda Goodwin (staff)—"saddened at the loss but she is on her way home (know she is a believer)."

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Phyllis Skorga Retirement

by Dean Hanrahan

Dr. Skorga was hired in the fall of 1998 as an associate professor of nursing. Her BSN and MSN were from the University of Tennessee and her PhD in nursing research is from one of my alma maters, the University of Kansas. Phyllis was tenured in 2003 and became a full professor in 2004. Prior to coming to A-State she did some work for the University of Memphis, University of Kansas, University of Tennessee, Northwest Mississippi Junior College and Baptist Memorial School of Nursing. She also did a variety of other things in her career including work for Southern Health Plan, University of Tennessee Hospital, City of Memphis Hospital, Rape Crisis Center, Baptist Memorial Hospital, and Jackson Memorial in Miami, FL.

Phyllis taught predominately graduate courses, with many involving web and online teaching. Her student evaluations were also very consistent suggesting excellence, professionalism, concern for students, dedication and other variables conducive to quality teaching. I couldn't find any qualitative comments with any "humor." All of them depicted Dr. Skorga's stellar work in teaching.

Her scholarship was wide ranging. She was part of the Debbie Persell team that capitalized on the first waves of "terrorism" by writing numerous articles on nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism. Her national presentations have been to a variety of audiences in many different subject areas, including distance learning, interdisciplinary teaming, community based education, primary care, dementia, smoking cessation and so forth. She and Charlotte Young completed some Cochrane evidence-transfer summaries and Phyllis also published in a wide variety of journals. She served as a mentor to faculty and graduate nursing students. One of her biggest projects

was the acquisition of the HRSA Delta Health Education Partnership from Grace Whitis. The DHEP project was multifaceted but as it progressed, she also became involved in USDA work and in collaborations with other entities for direct and indirect funds that served the region well. She did other HRSA grant work involving nurse anesthesia traineeships. Phyllis was a reviewer for the Southern Nursing Research Society, on the Honorary Editorial Board for Nursing Research and Review Journals and a member of the Executive Editorial Board and the Reviewers Task Panel for the IntellectBase International Consortium.

Phyllis was the faculty achievement award winner for service in 2000. She previously served on a variety of state steering committees and has been known for her work in primary care, rural health and rural-development issues. She spent a few years directing the graduate nursing programs. She also participated in the Doctor of Nursing Practice planning committee. She served the school, college and university in many different capacities including participating in the Arkansas Rural Loan Scholarship Committee. Professional memberships included those with the National Case Management Society of America, National League for Nursing, Southern Nursing Research Society, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, American Nursing Association and Sigma Theta Tau. Have a happy retirement!

Darlene Baker Retirement

by Dean Hanrahan

Dr Baker was hired as a temporary instructor in nursing at AState in 1990 as a partial replacement for Mary Hartwig, who was on education leave without pay. In 1991, she went on to be a permanent full time faculty member as assistant professor, as Dr Hartwig went to graduate faculty with a salary funded by AHEC. Darlene

was her permanent replacement on the baccalaureate faculty and has remained on the nursing faculty for the last 25 years. She graduated from A-State with her ASN, University of Central Arkansas with her BSN, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with her MSN and her EdD in Higher Education from the University of Memphis. One of my fondest memories of Darlene was the limo parked in front of the college taking her away after she was awarded her doctoral degree. Before she came to A-State, she had clinical stints at St. Bernards, The Med, Doctor's Hospital in Little Rock, Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock and in the office of Dr Harvey Edwards who was an orthopedic surgeon in Jonesboro. Darlene's expertise has always been in critical care and she gave numerous presentations throughout the state on Arrhythmia interpretation, critical care, advanced cardiac life support, ABG interpretation, etc. She held professional memberships in the American Association of Critical Care, Emergency Nurses Association, American and Arkansas Nurses Associations, Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education and Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society in Nursing. She had advanced nursing certifications in Critical Care and Emergency.

She was awarded tenure in 1996 and promoted to associate professor in 2015. She was certified in online teaching. Her students comments on teaching were always pretty consistent--excellent instructor and role model, best instructor I have had and a valuable resource. More specific comments were "hits the high spots and skips the clutter," "gave me faith in myself--like I could really be a nurse", she was a stress relief--grading was more objective vs. subjective and the clinical atmosphere was more conducive to learning vs worrying", "Ms. Baker is very professional--at the same time she expects a lot from the students; it is not to the point of making our lives hell" and lastly "she loves chocolate too much." *Cont on p. 7.*



Dr. Darlene Baker



Dr. Phyllis Skorga



MIRS students and faculty volunteered at the Human Society as part of their day of service during Radiologic Technology week.

STUDENT NEWS

CD Students Present Research

Three Communication Disorders graduate students presented research from their master's theses at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association National Convention in Denver, CO in Nov 12-14, 2015. Morgan Caples Thrasher presented "*The Use of Speech-in-Noise Testing as a Measure of Hearing Aid Benefit*"; Nicole Terry presented "*College Students' Knowledge about Stuttering: A Preliminary Investigation*" and Andria Hutchison presented "*The Impact of Aprosodia Therapy on Affective Prosody in High-Functioning Autism: A Case Study*."

MIRS Students Day of Service

by Veronica Manning and Tracy White

Radiologic Technology week is a time to celebrate the profession and is always held the week of November 8 in recognition of Wilhelm Roentgen's discovery date of X-rays. It is a time to bring awareness and pride to the profession. This year, the A-State Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences department decided to do something a little different. The department formed a student committee representing each MIRS program (Radiography, Radiation Therapy, Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging), and challenged students to design a "Day of Service" to give back to the community. This was an attempt to convey to students that health care professionals also have responsibilities of service in addition to their clinical roles. They established four volunteer opportunities for Friday Nov. 13. Carlee Creel and Madelyn Dozier, Radiography program President and Vice President were guests on KAIT Region 8 Midday on Tuesday, November 10, to promote the event.

Students volunteered at the following:

- The David Puryear Center – students worked with residents during their daily workstations and made cookies for the center's annual chili cook-fundraiser.

Baker Retirement

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Her scholarship revolved a lot around teaching and learning and she was awarded the Outstanding Paper Award at the 19th Annual World Conference on E-Learning in New Orleans. She was a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Nursing Education and Practice, participated in the Arkansas Nursing Research Alliance and was a mentor

- NEA Food Bank – one group of students packed 384 boxes of basic food items for local families. Another group boxed and stacked 90 boxes of assorted can goods for later distribution.
- The Learning Center – students helped clean transport buses and learning materials on both campuses.
- The Human Society – students wash, dried and played with all puppies and walked the larger dogs. Students and faculty aided in two successful adoptions by posting their pictures on Facebook.

The students named this the "Roentgen Day of Service" and we hope it becomes a tradition for future students. They also designed T-shirts to wear that day in an effort to represent the department and college well while serving the community. Students and faculty completed their volunteer opportunities and met at Craighead Forest for lunch.

A-State Student Nurses Association

This year has been busy for the Student Nurses Association. One of the most important accomplishments this year was the Internal Revenue Service granting the organization official status as a 501c(6) non-profit. This will allow the students to learn in real time the business side of community and professional service through the Student Nurses Association.

Another project added this year is students teaching CPR, which as it progresses will include educating local high school teachers to fulfill one of the Resolutions adopted by the National Student Nurses Association House of Delegates. Currently there are 12 students who have been trained as American Heart Association instructors. They were also able to purchase their own training equipment to allow greater flexibility for providing CPR courses to students in CNHP and people in the community.

to a variety of graduate nursing students on research like our own Kacie Altom.

Some of her other service work included working on an ad hoc committee to develop the master of science in health science, had responsibility for the nurse educator option in the MSN program, as commencement marshal, on faculty senate, and was on the executive committee of the NE AR Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She won the

The students began their most ambitious project to date last spring when they began working to raise \$25,000 for the creation of a scholarship for BSN students. To date the SNA has raised \$2,500 for this endeavor.

Other projects that continued from previous years include the Fourth Annual Trot for Tots benefitting the St. Bernards Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Last April, approximately 200 students and members of the community participated raising more than \$2,400.

Recently, at the Arkansas Nurses Students' Association State Convention, the students received four awards, which included:

- Empowering Resolutions – For their efforts to teach CPR to local high school faculty.
- Community Service Award – For the 4th Annual Trot for Tots 5K run/walk benefiting the St. Bernards NICU.
- Financial Excellence Award – Based on the student's record keeping, development of short and long-term financial goals and general money management practices.
- Newsletter Award – District III Scholarship awarded to senior BSN student Laci Tarrant.

CD Graduate Students Awarded Scholarships

By: Richard Neeley

Three graduate students majoring in Communication Disorders were recently awarded scholarships specifically designated for students in the profession.

- Kathryn Locke received the George Herndon Graduate Scholarship in Communication Disorders.
- Ragen Bray received the 2016 Jane H. LeBlanc Graduate Clinical Scholarship in Communication Disorders.
- Sarah Gearhart received the 2016 L.H. Sternheimer Scholarship in Communication Disorders.

clinical nurse educator award in 2001 from the Arkansas Nurses Association District 6, distinguished alumni award from the A-State School of Nursing in 2008 and two awards from the Northeast Arkansas Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. What started out as her special project work on an entry-level masters degree in nursing soon became the second degree accelerated program. She also participated and has led in lots of accreditation work and other department

and college committee work. She also worked to host the advanced trauma life support class, which was presented by the Arkansas Trauma Education and Research Foundation. Best Wishes to Darlene!

Title IV-E Academic Partnership in Public Child Welfare

by Karen Fullen, PI/Program Director

The welfare of Arkansas children in Child Protective Services has entered a state of crisis. There are increases in the numbers of: cases being reported and investigated by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Arkansas State Police (ASP); cases substantiated; and perhaps the most critical, the numbers of children in the foster care/out of home placement. The Arkansas State University Title IV-E Child Welfare Program received a \$482,082 grant to continue into the fiscal year 2015-2016 with the overall goals of educating students in child welfare issues, recruiting students for a more advanced and informed child welfare workforce, training new DCFS workers and supervisors and providing on-going advanced education for veteran DCFS staff.

The workload responsibilities of caseworkers are extremely demanding and the turnover high, with more than 50 percent of current DCFS workers having less than one year on the job. The A-State Title IV-E field trainers work diligently to prepare, educate/train, coach and mentor students, new DCFS staff and veteran staff seeking counsel and advanced practice knowledge and skills.

If anyone reading this newsletter is interested in or knows someone who is interested in volunteering and or supporting Children and Family Services in any way, please contact one of the IV-E staff members for information. We have individuals who serve as CASA volunteers, an integral part of child safety in the foster care system. This crisis situation cannot be overcome by DCFS alone. The children of our state belong to us all and their story is our story.

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Interdisciplinary Committee (IDT) presented fall lunch and learn titled, *"Who's Who and What do they do: Working with GLBTQ+ Children, Youth and Families"* for 156 interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate students and faculty on Oct. 27, 2015 in the Student Union.

Karen Fullen, Natalie Gatline and Kenya Duncan participated in the Child Welfare Program Improvement Work Groups. Ms. Fullen presented *"DCFS New Worker Curriculum"*,

"Education/Training Measurement and Evaluation" and led the Title IV-E Academic Partnership in Public Child Welfare Professional Development workgroup. Ms. Gatlin presented *"DCFS Worker Competency Review and Review."* Ms. Duncan presented *"Education/Training Measurement and Evaluation."*

Ms. Duncan and Ms. Gatlin served as co-chairs for the annual DCFS staff education day for over 100 NEA DCFS field staff in Jul. 2015. Trish Holt and Ms. Fullen served as co-chairs for the annual DCFS Supervisor Leadership Conference in Oct. 2015. Karen Fullen served as conference committee member for the A-State Spring Social Work Conference and the Fall 2015 Health Disparities Conference.

Delta Health Disparities Conference

By Dr. Patricia Guy-Walls

The Social Work Department hosted its Third Annual Health Disparities Conference on Nov. 11th 2015 in the Carl R. Reng Student Union of Arkansas State University. The conference was co-chaired by Dr. Patricia Guy Walls and Dr. Patricia Wilkerson. This year's conference theme was *"Transforming Health Care in the Rural Delta Region."* Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., FACOPF, Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs at the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine was the keynote speaker.

The conference forum also included a students' Poster Track by senior Bachelor-level social work students, which included eight poster presentations: The first place poster topic was *"Type 2 Diabetes among African Americans living in the Delta Region"* presented by Kisha Clayton, Christina Davis, Tiffany Jackson, Savanna Pemberton and Brad Stout; second place poster entitled: *"Risk Factors for African American women with breast cancer in the Rural Delta Region"* presented by Natalie Bauer, Marchell Ekoh, Kimberly Lavespere and Chelsea Pierce, and third place poster entitled: *"What is the correlation between women mental illness/ depression and poverty in the Rural Delta Region"* presented by Shauna Tucker, Cassidy Day and Jamie Myers Gills.

Beck PRIDE Center Update

by Lynda Nash, Director

Working relationships with the VA centers in Memphis, Poplar Bluff, Missouri and Little Rock continue to be expanded. An Under-Understanding Anger group was offered for six weeks starting in November and the therapeutic

combat support group is offered weekly at the BPC. A support group for caregivers of military veterans was started in November and continues this spring biweekly. Additional workshops for veterans and family members will be offered this spring regarding veteran's benefits, understanding the benefits claim process and estate planning.

The 4th community education workshop, Addictive Thinking by Todd Clements, M.D., was held October 8 at the St. Bernard's auditorium. There were 140 participants, which included mental health providers and clergy from Northeast Arkansas. Plans for additional workshops to be offered quarterly in 2016 are being developed.

Beck PRIDE Center continues to support educational opportunities for a master's level and bachelor's level social work intern, master's counseling intern, four VA work-study students and two graduate assistants.

Staff and volunteers are involved in a veteran's court initiative in partnership with the 2nd Judicial District; Memphis VA system; and Midsouth Health systems. Four participants of the center completed national certification as Veteran Mentors for the Veteran's court initiative.

The Beck PRIDE Center provided a float for the Jonesboro Veteran's Day Parade. The campus showed their support by lighting the Bell Tower green on Veteran's Day and a luncheon for veterans was held at the center.

Families Inc., chose the Beck PRIDE Center as one of the recipients of the Howl for Humanity campaign. \$2,500 was raised and the check was presented at the football game vs. Texas State.

Six Alumni Honored at Homecoming

Six outstanding graduates of Arkansas State University's College of Nursing and Health Professions were honored as distinguished alumni during Homecoming activities, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015.

The list includes **NATASHA DAVIS**, Communication Disorders; **JILL WEEKS**, Clinical Laboratory Science; **BRIAN LEWIS**, Physical Therapy; **KELLIE COX**, nursing; Gary Taber, social work and Kathy Blackman, nursing. Special congratulations to these honored alumni.

Grief Seminar

The Billy Joe and Betty Ann Emerson Grief Seminar is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016 at the A-State Fowler Center. The registration brochure will be available at <http://www.astate.edu/college/conhp>.

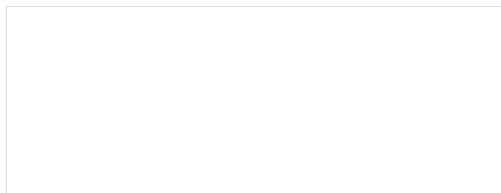


ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of

Nursing & Health Professions

PO Box 910, State University, AR 72467



Spring 2016

Schedule of Events

January 19	Spring Classes Begin
March 9	Clinical Instructors Seminar, ASU Fowler Center
March 21-26	Spring Break
April 18	Convocation of Scholars
May 2	Last Day of Spring Classes
May 14	Spring Commencement
May 23	Billy Joe and Betty Emerson Grief Seminar
May 31	Summer I Classes Begin
June 29	Last Day of Summer I Classes
July 5	Summer II Classes Begin
August 3	Last Day of Summer II Classes
August 5	Summer Commencement

Reflections on Rebecca

Cont. from page 4

So that you truly understand, this is just a "small" discussion of the talents and abilities of Rebecca Matthews. So Heaven---WATCH OUT!

A scholarship has been established in her name by the family. Please send contributions to:

Arkansas State University
College of Nursing & Health Professions
PO Box 910
State University, AR 72467

Make checks payable to the ASU Foundation.

Best Nursing Schools

Cont. from page 1

year retention rate, RateMyProfessor/ professor average); and Value (salary vs. cost).

The School of Nursing is very honored to be selected as the highest-ranked Nursing School in the state. We are challenged to continue to exceed these expectations to offer the highest-quality education and opportunities for our students. This most esteemed award is a reflection of the excellent, dedicated faculty, staff, and students that A-State has the privilege of serving.

Clinical Instructor's Seminar

The College of Nursing and Health Professions will sponsor the 19th annual Clinical Instructor's Seminar on April 8, 2016. The topic this year is End of Life Care and Decision-Making. The keynote speaker will be Mrs. Donna Nelson-Lowe. She is the Director of the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House in Jonesboro. Mrs. Nelson-Lowe is a graduate of the A-State School of Nursing. The morning presentation will be followed by breakout sessions for each of the academic departments.