DEAN’S CORNER

I have now been in Louisville one year. The faculty, staff, alumni and students have been wonderful to work with and as I learn more about the School of Nursing, I realize what a special role the University of Louisville plays in the city.

The past year was an exciting year for the School of Nursing. Our nursing site in Owensboro, under the direction of Dr. Amy Higdon, celebrated their 10th Anniversary, and received approval to increase enrollment to 70 students a year. The Master Entry for Professional Nursing Program, under the direction of Dr. Diane Chlebowy, also received permission to increase enrollment to 60 students a year. Our DNP Program, under the direction of Dr. Sara Robertson, earned accreditation from CCNE after a site visit in September 2018. Our PhD Program, under the direction of Dr. Becky Christian, has developed a track for DNP-to-PhD.

Another notable success is PhD student Jade Chatman’s Under 40 Award from the National Black Nurses Association. We are so proud of our students.

Our search committee, under the chair Dr. Said Abusalem, had a successful year of recruiting a number of new tenure track faculty:

- Dr. Candace Harrington, Assistant Professor, who holds the Geriatric NP Professorship; Dr. Cheryl Witt, Assistant Professor; Dr. Fran Hardin-Fanning, the Shirley B. Powers Endowed Chair; and Dr. Debra Anderson, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Operations.

I also hope you’ve had the opportunity to view our 3rd floor display cases designed by Dr. Angela Calloway Washington to reflect the history of nursing.

Finally, our Alumni Council held a Belle of Louisville cruise in May for alumni, faculty, staff and students, and it will now be an annual event. Look for announcements in the spring for the second annual cruise!

Go Cards!

Dean -Sonya R. Hardin PhD RN NP-C FAAN

PROGRAM NEWS

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Traditional BSN program celebrated the graduation of the first cohort under the revised BSN curriculum. Based on stakeholder feedback, the curriculum was updated to prepare the BSN graduate for the nursing workforce and to meet the evolving health care needs of society. Students have opportunities to engage in diverse nursing experiences that prepare them to be change agents in their communities in a variety of health care settings.

BSN program graduation rates continue to be among the top for nursing programs in the state of Kentucky, while NCLEX-RN pass rates remain above the national average. Notable student accomplishments include the election of Jonathan Fuller as the university’s Student Government Association student body President for AY 2018-2019. Jonathan is expected to graduate in December 2019. As part of his responsibilities, Jonathan has served as the student representative on the UofL Board of Trustees. Also noteworthy, Alex Hicks-Chambers was selected as the student speaker for UofL’s Spring commencement. As a May 2019 graduate, Alex proudly represented the School of Nursing as she reminded all UofL graduates of the importance of living with integrity as they transition into the next chapter of their lives.

RN-BSN PROGRAM

In Summer 2019, the RN-BSN Program transitioned to new leadership when Dr. Diane Riff took over as Director in Summer 2019 for this program which allows students to take advantage of lower tuition. The university agreed to reduce online tuition for RN-BSN courses from $497 to $375 per credit hour as one way to stay competitive in the RN-BSN marketplace. Partnerships with community colleges and hospitals are in the works in an effort to make UofL their RN-BSN program of choice. Please spread the word to all associate degree nurses you know!

MEPN PROGRAM

Lisa Gaines, a May 2019 MEPN Program graduate, received a UofL Graduate Dean’s Citation Award during a ceremony on April 23. The program also held a welcome ceremony on May 17 to recognize the accomplishments of 28 students in the newly admitted cohort of the MEPN Program. Rachel Mattingly, a May 2017 MEPN Program graduate, provided the keynote address at this event. In other news, four recent graduates of the MEPN program started in UofL’s DNP Program this fall.

DNP PROGRAM

Four UofL DNP students entered poster presentations at the Kentucky Organization of Nurse Leaders Annual Meeting held in September. Three of the four students received first place for their presentations. These August 2019 graduates include Drs. Joy Lindsey, Kim Hall and Emily McRae.

PhD PROGRAM

During the fall and spring semesters, Dean Hardin hosted PhD students and their faculty advisors at her home to create a community of scholars sharing research and scholarly activities. PhD students presented their work at Research!Louisville, the Graduate Regional Research Conference, the Midwest Nursing Research Society, as well as in national and international venues. The PhD Program was approved to offer a third program option: DNP-to-PhD option, in addition to the existing BSN-to-PhD and MSN-to-PhD options. The GRE requirement for admission to the PhD Program was eliminated beginning in 2020.
NEW FACULTY

We welcome several faculty who joined the SON Cardinal family in Fall 2019:

Dr. Debra Anderson joins the school as Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Operations. She received her MSN in community health nursing from Indiana University and a PhD in family nursing from Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Anderson comes from South Dakota State University where she was Associate Dean of Research. She has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health and from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Her research expertise in workplace violence, homelessness, vulnerable populations, domestic violence and occupational health will be essential to the UofL School of Nursing in helping to enhance our research efforts.

Dr. Lynette Galloway joined the School of Nursing as a fixed-term Assistant Professor. She received her BSN and MSN from Spalding University, and a DNP from Bellarmine University.

D. Galloway is dual certified as a FNP and PNP with over 20 years of NP experience. She has 15 years of teaching experience, seven years of teaching in accelerated programs and has designed week-long intensive clinical immersion. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives. She is an expert in online education with experience in Blackboard, Moodle, Canvas and MyEvaluations.

Dr. Becky Gesler joined the School of Nursing as a fixed-term Assistant Professor. She obtained her BSN from the University of Louisville, MSN from the University of Phoenix with a focus in Nursing Administration and Education, and her EdD from Bellarmine University.

Dr. Gesler is now pursuing a post-masters FNP certificate from Spalding University. She has 15 years of teaching experience with traditional undergraduate and RN-BSN students. She also has nine years of experience with online teaching and simulation and is an ATI champion, having served as an ATI virtual coach and live reviewer.

Dr. Fran Hardin-Fanning is a Professor and the school's Shirley B. Powers Endowed Chair. She completed an Associate Degree in Nursing from Morehead State University and a MSN and PhD from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. She has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and has earned national awards for her research work in Appalachia. She developed the University of Kentucky’s MedVet to BSN Option, an accelerated option for military medics to obtain a BSN degree funded by HRSA. Dr. Hardin-Fanning will teach in the PhD program, supervise DNP Projects and support development of research and scholarship in the School of Nursing and in Norton Healthcare.

Dr. Candace Harrington brings 30 years of geriatric experience in long-term care and geriatric clinics to her role as Assistant Professor and Gerontology Professor. She earned a diploma in nursing from Presbyterian Hospital, an undergraduate degree in nursing from Gardner Webb University, a masters in nursing with adult gerontology concentration from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Vanderbilt University. She also completed a PhD from East Carolina University. Dr. Harrington will teach in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Track and other graduate courses. In her role as Gerontology Professor, she will work with Trilogy Health Services, Signature Healthcare and Elmcroft Health Systems to support research and scholarship related to long-term care.

Ms. Ashley Humphrey is a 2007 graduate of the University of Louisville BSN program. She joined us as a 10-month, term faculty member after being a part-time clinical instructor beginning in 2015. She has a MSN in Nursing Education from Western Governors University and is certified as a CCRN with extensive background in adult health focused on critical care. She has proven to be an excellent clinical instructor and is excited to begin this next step in her career as a nurse educator. She will be working with the BSN Louisville program continuing her work in the adult health courses. Ms. Humphrey also is a member of Sigma Theta Tau.

Ms. Krista Roach is a two-time ULSON graduate. She joins us as an instructor after working in several primary care settings, including her most recent position in ehealth with Norton Care. She has served as a clinical instructor in the school for several semesters. She will be providing primary care at the Racetrack Clinic and teaching in women’s health and community health courses, as well of other areas of our programs.

Dr. Sarah Schirmer joined the School of Nursing on August 1 as a fixed-term Assistant Professor. She received her BSN from Eastern Kentucky University and DNP from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Schirmer holds a master degree in counseling and bachelor degrees in nursing, biology and psychology. Her background includes work as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Lifespan and is a Certified Buprenorphine Prescriber. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners & Nurse Midwives and the Kentucky Nurses Association. Her background in telepsychiatry, OCD and eating disorders will add expertise for our Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner DNP Track led by Dr. Mary Beth Cody.

Dr. Cheryl Witt brings extensive hospital and community health practice and teaching experience as an assistant professor. She earned a BSN from the University of Kentucky, MSN from the University of Cincinnati and PhD from the University of Kentucky. Her background includes a certificate in online instruction from Thomas Edison State University. She is an expert in qualitative research and has a co-PI on a National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health Award. Dr. Witt will teach in the BSN Louisville undergraduate program with a community health clinical and pathophysiology. She will continue her research in food insecurity and the mental health of women farmers.
Dr. Elisabeth Volpert, SON Assistant Professor (term), has been selected to be a member of the MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measure Wave 3 Clinical Subcommittee. Dr. Volpert will represent the School of Nursing and reside on this Subcommittee with other clinical providers from universities and associations across the U.S. including John Hopkins University, Harvard University and the American Academy of Physicians. Dr. Volpert has extensive experience and expertise in primary care. She will work with other chosen physicians and nurse practitioners in developing evidence-based cost measures for potential use in the Quality Payment Programs.

Dr. Frances Hardin-Fanning joined the School of Nursing as Professor and the Shirley B. Powers Endowed Chair. Her education began at Morehead State University where she earned an Associate Degree in Nursing followed by a MSN from the University of Kentucky where she was honored with the UK College of Nursing Alumni Association graduate student award. She completed a PhD in nursing and received the James S. Brown Graduate Student award for her dissertation research related to nutrition in Eastern Kentucky. While a faculty member at UK, she received the College of Nursing’s Louise Zeeger Nursing Faculty Award. In 2016, she completed a Graduate Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science Research Skills, and in 2019 she completed an Online Instruction Certificate from Central Michigan University.

Dr. Debra Anderson joined the executive team in August of 2019 as the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Operations. She joins us from the University of South Dakota where she was the Associate Dean of Research in the School of Nursing. She has numerous years in academia with a research focus in vulnerable populations. Her expertise includes being LEAD certified, Director of Work-Life Engagement at the University of Kentucky’s College of Nursing and a variety of leadership positions in the American Public Health Association’s Public Health Nursing Section.

Her research, which focuses on developing and testing nutrition interventions in rural Appalachia, has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Many of her publications are in top-tiered journals including Nursing Clinic of North America and the Journal of Gerontological Nursing.

Dr. Mary DeLetter was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Emergency Nursing. He was also appointed to the Institute for Emergency Nursing Research as an Advisory Council Member. Dr. Clark was chosen for both positions because of his extensive experience and dedication to emergency nursing research.

Angela Mehringer (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Luz Huntington-Moskos (Co-investigator) received a $2,500 Evidence-based Practice Grant from the Society for Pediatric Nurses for their project, “Fostering Resilience by Educating Undergraduate Nursing Students about Adverse Childhood Experiences”. The goals of this project are to increase knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), to develop self-awareness of ACE score among nursing students; and to develop an understanding of the impact of ACEs on long-term health outcomes of adults.

Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin is a Co-investigator on $330,000 interdisciplinary educational grant, Summer Health Professions Education Program, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Faye Jones of the HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion is the PI.
OWENSBORO EXTENSION CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

In March, the UofL School of Nursing Owensboro Extension celebrated 10 years since the inception of the program. Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community supporters came together to celebrate this milestone. Representatives from the School of Nursing and Owensboro Health spoke about the value and success of the Owensboro Extension.

In November 2018, the Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN) approved an increase in enrollment for the Owensboro Extension. The program can now admit up to 70 students annually. This is an increase of 40 students annually.
**ROBERTSON RECEIVES AANP AWARD**

Dr. Sara Robertson was awarded the American Association of Nurse Practitioner State Advocacy Award which recognizes a nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in clinical practice and advocacy for the profession. Dr. Robertson’s roles leading the expansion of services at the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center, along with her role in developing and leading the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UofL were highlighted. She received the award at the 2019 American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference in June.

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**NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING**

Several School of Nursing faculty and students attended the National Black Nurses Association annual conference in July in New Orleans. Assistant Professor (term), Alona Pack, MA, presided over the school’s exhibit. Dr. Cynethia Bethel-Jaiteh delivered two presentations: “Improving Access to Human Milk and Elevating Breastfeeding Rates” and “Intention to Breastfeed and Intervention in African American Women.” In addition, PhD student Jade Chatman was one of 17 nurses recognized with the 2019 40 and Under Award.

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**RETIRED FACULTY**

Please congratulate the following faculty on their retirement:

- Dr. Carla Hermann, Dr. Marcia Hern,
- Dr. Marianne Hutti, Dr. Celeste Shawler,
- Dr. Ruth “Topsy” Staten and
- Ms. Gaye Waldie, MSN, APRN.