

# NURSING NEWSLETTER

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[ulm.edu/nursing](http://ulm.edu/nursing)

## WELCOME ALUMNI

**Greetings from the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing! We hope all of you are doing well.**

The School of Nursing has been busy with the continued process of educating students to become highly sought after graduates and outstanding nurses. As we continue trying to make a difference in the provision of health care, we need to look at where we have been and where we are going.

In 1960, in a response to a great need for additional health care providers in Northeast Louisiana, the Northeast Louisiana State College established the School of Nursing. The School of Nursing was housed in a small army barracks and included one single classroom and a small laboratory with very basic equipment. The laboratory equipment included two hospital beds and one mannequin.

In 1981, the School of Nursing moved into the state of the art Nursing Building. The new building had many amenities for the nursing students and faculty, including two state of the art nursing laboratories. In 2008, after extensive damage caused by hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the School of Nursing was relocated in various places on campus. After undergoing two years of extensive renovations, the School of Nursing Building renovation was completed. The Nursing Building (Kitty DeGree Hall) now has three regular labs, one small three bed lab, and two simulation labs. Currently, we are in the process of converting another space into a six bed lab. These expanded laboratory spaces and better equipment has certainly enhanced the teaching/learning process and will allow us to increase admissions into the professional program.

Health care is rapidly changing and with those changes there is a greater need for nurses to continue their education. In July 2016, Kitty DeGree School of Nursing added a Master's (MSN) degree program. The focus of this MSN program is in administration/leadership. In addition, there are plans to begin another MSN track Summer 2017.

The Kitty DeGree School of Nursing continues to build upon the foundation of excellence for which it is known and strives to create an environment in which our students develop a passion for the practice of nursing. The Kitty DeGree School of Nursing December 2015 graduates achieved a 100% first time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam for RNs (NCLEX-RN) and the May 2016 class achieved a first time pass rate of 97.6%. The highly qualified faculty, excellent physical facilities and equipment, and excellent students have led to these outstanding NCLEX results.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), nursing is the largest of the health care professions (2012). Currently, there are about 3.1 million registered nurses in the United States (AACN); however, there are only about 2.7 million of these nurses employed in nursing. While many occupations have experienced a decrease in job positions over the past several years, nursing has continued as an area of job growth.



**Dr. Emily Smith Doughty,**  
Director, ULM School of Nursing

*continued from page 1*

Our continued goal is to help meet the needs of our students and our community. As School of Nursing Alumni, you have an opportunity to make a difference in the continuing progress of your School. Your outstanding basic nursing education has given you the foundation for your achievements as a nurse. Please consider making a monetary contribution to the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing. Since allocations from the State of Louisiana do not adequately provide for all of the School of Nursing needs for upgrades to technology and other equipment, your gift to the School would help us continue to meet the needs of our students and community.

As ULM celebrates its 85th anniversary this year, we need to remember what we have learned from our past, and work toward moving our profession into a future filled with opportunity to make a difference. We would love the opportunity to visit with you and learn how you are making a difference.



**Paula Thornhill**  
Director, eULM

"This ranking is confirmation that the Kitty Degree School of Nursing is determined to make a difference for Registered Nurses in our community and state by extending its history of excellence from the oncampus classroom to the online classroom," said Paula Thornhill, Director of eULM. "Our program attracts the best nurses and our graduates are the leaders who are making a difference in the healthcare industry."

The RN to BSN program offers registered nurses the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing to advance their careers. A BSN RN can pursue graduate education and become a nurse educator, nurse practitioner, or a nurse anesthetist. According to the program's website, "Having a BSN RN allows an individual to have upward mobility in a growing and ever changing field."

Applicants for the online RN to BSN degree must be a graduate from a state-approved and nationally accredited diploma or associate degree nursing program (CNEA, ACEN) and currently hold an unencumbered unrestricted RN license to practice.



**Dr. Eric Pani**  
VP for Academic Affairs

Dr. Eric Pani, ULM Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, "I want to compliment the faculty in the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing for their superior work in teaching these students and in designing highquality online courses. I also want to thank our eULM staff for the help they have given to support our online students and the assistance they have provided our faculty in making the online courses effective in that format.

"Our eULM programs continue to receive national recognition for their superiority and are an effective way for us to meet workforce demands in high-need professions."

The complete ranking is available at <https://www.collegestart.org/top/online-rn-bsn-programs/>. For more information about the RN to BSN program, visit [ulm.edu/onlinedegrees/bs\\_nurs](http://ulm.edu/onlinedegrees/bs_nurs).

## ULM SCHOOL OF NURSING

### ULM ranked no. 1 in nation for best value online RN to BSN program

Published August 4, 2016

MONROE, La. — The University of Louisiana Monroe's online RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program was ranked no. 1 in the nation for 2016-17 by CollegeStart.org. The site ranking took into account several key factors to ensure that the student gets the best rate of return on their educational investment. The factors in determining the ranking were graduation rate, cost, acceptance rate, enrollment rate, retention rate, student to faculty ratio, percentage of students receiving financial aid, and loan default rate. Based on these factors, ULM had a near-perfect score of 98.8%.

# NURSING CONCEPTS



**Wendy Bailes,**  
Associate Professor, Associate Director  
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing

## BSN PROGRAM

**The Kitty DeGree School of Nursing at the University of Louisiana Monroe is entering exciting times!** We are currently in the process of transitioning our curriculum to meet the needs of our students and healthcare providers. What's even more exciting is that we are growing!! Our student admissions are increasing, our RN to BSN online program numbers are increasing and we began our MSN program this past summer. We are excited! While it is true that there is a little pain involved with the change and growth, the pain is making us stronger.

The goal of faculty and students are to be the best at what they do. I am proud of our faculty who continue to work to be the experts in their fields. Many continue to work at the bedside, while working full-time as faculty. Others are working on acquiring advanced degree's that in turn benefit our program. Faculty work tirelessly to write grants, conduct research and attend conferences that benefit the School of Nursing. I am proud of our student body that goes above and beyond. Many are involved in the Student Nurses Association. I receive so much positive feedback from the community as our students serve others. Whether they are taking blood pressures at a local run event, teaching at the library, taking care of a patient at the bedside, the students demonstrate a professionalism that alumni can be proud of. It's a great day to be a Warhawk, it's a great day to be a ULM SON alumni and I could not be more proud to be a part of Kitty DeGree SON.



**Rhonda Hensley,**  
Associate Professor,  
Associate Director Graduate Program  
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing

## MSN PROGRAM

**The University of Louisiana Monroe, Kitty Degree School of Nursing is excited to announce** the establishment and initiation of a new Graduate Nursing Program. Our first graduate nursing class enrolled in Summer 2016. The first class will graduate in December 2017. See our School of Nursing web page at [www.ulm.edu/nursing](http://www.ulm.edu/nursing) for details.

The focus of this graduate nursing program is a Gerontological Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). This program requires 36 credit hours over a course of 5 semesters of full time enrollment. All courses will be taught online. Courses will include a graduate core of nursing theory and research; a direct care core including physical assessment, pharmacology and pathophysiology; and a CNL competency core including courses in personnel/organizational management, fiscal management, health care law, health policy, ethics, quality improvement, patient safety, and gerontology. Clinical hours are required in the curriculum, these will occur under the direction of an approved preceptor in the learner's geographic area. Graduates of the program will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree and will be eligible to sit for a national certification examination.

The Clinical Nurse Leader role is fairly new, but rapidly growing nursing role. Major stakeholders in the development of this advanced generalist nursing role include the Veterans Hospitals, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, The Institute of Medicine, and the Joint Commission. The AACN's White Paper (2007) introduced the CNL role as an "approach to strengthen nursing leadership at the point of which care is delivered, to improve patient safety and strengthen the quality outcomes of the care delivered". Graduates of the CNL program will be eligible for employment in middle and upper management nursing positions in hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice, VA hospitals, magnet health centers, and many other clinical venues. The CNL is an advanced generalist clinician with an education at the master's level who is prepared to bring a high level of clinical competence and knowledge to the point of care and to serve as a resource for the clinical team. The CNL utilizes evidence based practice to oversee care coordination, communicate, plan, and implement high quality care with other health care professionals.

If you, or a colleague, are interested in taking your career to the next level, to maximize your ability to make a positive impact on nursing care, then you should consider this educational pathway. Visit us online, and contact us for additional information. Your journey to a better tomorrow begins here.

# RN TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING



**Tim Cotita** is the Regional Ethicist for St. Francis Medical Center/Our Lady of Angels Hospital and a 2011 Graduate of the eULM RN to BSN Nursing Program.

**Employment of registered nurses is projected to** grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics this is faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventative care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand for healthcare services from the baby boomer population, as they live longer and more active lives. Associate and diploma degree nurses can become RN when they pass the NCLEX-RN. They return to ULM to obtain their BSN so they can continue on their educational pursuit of a master's degree, to obtain a management position in their health care agency, and to gain the knowledge for practicing at the best of their ability. A BSN RN can go on to take a masters education and become a nurse educator, nurse practitioner, or a nurse anesthetist. Having a BSN RN allows the individual to have upward mobility in a growing and ever changing field. Having a BSN RN allows for multiple choices in the practitioner role: family, pediatrics, woman's health, acute care, etc.

Applicants for this degree must meet the following criteria:

- Graduate from a state-approved and nationally accredited diploma or associate degree nursing program (CNEA, ACEN)
- Currently hold an unencumbered unrestricted RN license to practice prior to admittance into the professional program
- Have a minimum corrected, cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all required pre-nursing courses (excluding grades earned in developmental education courses).

To find the curriculum for this degree please view degree plan.

[https://webservices.ulm.edu/flightpath/blank-degrees/?display?blank\\_degree\\_id=major\\_code\\_DLNU&blank\\_catalog\\_year=current](https://webservices.ulm.edu/flightpath/blank-degrees/?display?blank_degree_id=major_code_DLNU&blank_catalog_year=current)

For more information please contact Dr. Sherry Peveto.

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Fax: (318) 342-1567

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**The Graduate Nursing Program in the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing offers a Master of Science** in Nursing (MSN) degree with two different program concentrations: the Gerontological Clinical Nurse Leader and the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner.

**Gerontological Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL):** This online degree program prepares graduates for management decision making skills required by healthcare agencies providing care for gerontology patients. The program focuses on acquisition of management skills including human resource management, fiscal management, and quality management to improve health care outcomes for older patients in a variety of health care settings.

**Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP):** This online degree program prepares graduates to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in primary care settings providing health care management, health promotion, and disease prevention for adult and senior patients in out-patient primary care clinics. Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for national board certification as a nurse practitioner and to hold an advanced practice licensure status.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**In addition to the requirements for Regular admission to the School of Graduate Studies, all applicants for the MSN degree must meet the following criteria:**

- Application to the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing Graduate Program
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited school of nursing
- Current, unencumbered registered nurse license
- Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher on 4.0 scale
- GRE, taken within 5 years of admission. Minimum score: Verbal 140; Quantitative 140, Analytical 2.5
- Minimum work experience as an RN of two (2) years
- Submission of a written essay of 500 words describing your professional nursing goals. (See Checklist below for details)

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### **Clinical Nurse Leader**

The program requires 36 credit hours for completion of the MSN degree. Detailed curriculum is available [here](#).

Clinical Requirements: Graduate nursing students will complete a minimum of 400 clinical contact hours throughout this curriculum, under the direct supervision of an approved clinical preceptor.

### **Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

The degree requirements for this program of study require 40 credit hours for completion of the MSN degree. Detailed curriculum is available [here](#).

Clinical Requirements: AGPCNP students will complete a minimum of 640 clinical contact hours in primary health care settings under the direction of an approved clinical preceptor.

Deadline to Apply: April 30, 2017

Application Form

For further information contact:

Dr. Rhonda Hensley

[hensley@ulm.edu](mailto:hensley@ulm.edu)

318-342-1642

University of  
**LOUISIANA**  
Monroe

Kitty DeGree  
School of Nursing

PINNING CEREMONY • MAY 13, 2016



# SPRING 2016 AWARDS

Every semester, students in each semester of the professional nursing program vote for members of their class to receive Nurse, Peer and Spirit of Nursing awards. These awards are graciously sponsored by Saint Francis Medical Center.

Recipients of the Nurse Peer Award are the member(s) of the class whom those voting would like to have care for them if they themselves were ill. Spirit of Nursing Awards are presented to the member(s) of the class voted the most positive, supportive, and uplifting.

Congratulations to these students who have been selected for these very special awards.



Students from left to right: Morgan Chelette, Nikki Thompson, Joanna Bentsen, Tamara Burns and Anna Varnado.



Students from left to right: Jansen Boyd, Deneisha McClelland, Caitlyn O'Daniel, Chartasha Wright, Tamara Burns, JoAnna Bentsen, Jessica Durham and Cindy Phan.

## Spring 2016

Semester	Peer Award	Spirit Award
I	Anna Varnado	Tamara Burns

II	Not awarded	Joanna Bentsen
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III	Not awarded	Nikki Thompson
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IV	Shelby Usry	Not awarded
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V	Annie Peddie	
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Faculty Award	Annie Peddie	
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Sigma Theta Tau Award	Morgan Chelette	
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## Fall 2016

Semester	Peer Award	Spirit Award
I	Jansen Boyd	Deneisha McClelland

II	Caitlyn O'Daniel Chartasha Wright	Tamara Burns
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III	JoAnna Bentsen	Brittany Gix
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IV	Jessica Durham	Cindy Phan
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V	Shelby Usry	
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Faculty Award	Shelby Usry	
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Sigma Theta Tau Award	Kate Hamilton	
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# STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION



Students from left to right: Jessica Durham, Hannah Cobb, Miaela Kirkendoll, Ashley Archer, Jennifer Peveson, Morgan May  
Bending: Mikaela Boudreaux, Cindy Phan, Hannah Albritton

## STUDENT NEWS



Students from left to right: Kaitlyn Johnson, Thanh Bui, Mickaela Boudreaux



Students from left to right: Darius Brown

### RSO Contact Details

#### Ashley Archer

318-342-1668

archeran@warhawks.ulm.edu

171 members

President: Ashley Nicole Archer

Vice President: Jessica Ann Durham

Type: Professional

Nickname: SNA

Affiliation: National Student Nurses' Association

Description: A professional organization of nursing students hoping to improve our relationship with our community.

Purpose: To offer a sense of community and professionalism among student nurses.

Membership Requirements: Nursing Student enrolled in Kitty Degree School of Nursing  
Pre-Nursing student enrolled in Nursing 2000

Meeting Day: 3rd Thursday of every month

Meeting Time: 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Address: Nursing Building Room 218  
RSO Advisors

Faculty/Staff Advisor(s):

- Judith Lowery Hughes
- Donna Glaze
- Cheryl Hummel
- Kathy Kennedy



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Susan G. Komen, Fall 2016**

Thanh Bui, Cathy Campbell,  
and Mickaela Boudreaux



**Christmas Party, 2016**

Tammy Dannehl, Shari Moreau,  
and Donna Glaze



**Browse on the Bayou, Fall 2016**

Vonny Thornton, Geanie Lang, Audrey Rayford,  
and Martha Goodman

## TENURE AND PROMOTION



**Kathy Kennedy, DNP**  
Assistant Professor  
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing

Frontier University Nursing,  
October 2016



**Connie Lewis, R.N., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing

University of Mississippi at Jackson



**Sherry Peveto, DNP, WHNP**  
Assistant Professor  
of RN to BSN/MSN Coord  
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing

Frontier University Nursing,  
October 2016

# GRADUATES 2016

The ULM Spring 2016 Graduates:

The Convocation Ceremony was held December 6, 2016 in Brown Auditorium at 3:00 pm.

Khyra Albright  
Kirstie Birch  
Emily Bordelon  
Jennifer Bowman  
Emilie Brown  
Brittany Bullock  
Jamie Compton

Audrey Cooke  
Kimberly Dorion  
Amanda Gammel  
Angela Garland  
Reagan Glover  
Jacob Harrell  
Beverly Jackson

Lauren Jackson  
Tamario Johnson  
Blake Jordan  
Amy McDowell  
Stacey Martinez  
Kelly Ratcliff  
Katie Risinger

The ULM Fall 2016 Graduates:

Sonja Allen  
Ashley Cheek  
Alex Adcock  
Lyndie Ashley  
Evelyn Bennett  
Makaela Brewer  
Darius Brown  
Caleb Carter

Andria Deason  
Courtney Dutreix  
Ashley Frost  
Britny Fuglaar  
Danielle Gooden  
Ashton Hamby  
Kate Hamilton  
Jasmine Ledet

Steven Nugent  
Briana Royal  
Jordyn Smith  
Shelby Usry  
Katherine Winnon  
Morgan Woods

## ULM KITTY DEGREE SCHOOL OF NURSING DOMINATES THE NATIONAL BOARDS

### **Graduates from the ULM Kitty DeGree School of Nursing**

exceeded both the national and state averages on the NCLEX exam.

ULM 's average score of 94.12% exceeded Louisiana's state average of 87.01% by more than seven percent and more than 11 percent higher than the national average of 83.04%. The Kitty DeGree School of Nursing at ULM was particularly proud of their graduates' accomplishments since the difficulty level of NCLEX was significantly high this year.

# SIGMA THETA TAU: LAMBDA MU CHAPTER NEWS

## Sigma Theta Tau Honors Tea Spring 2016



From left to right: Karen Arrant, Sherilyn Wiggins and Kathy Kennedy

## Sigma Theta Tau Honors Tea Spring 2016



### Officers for the Lambda Mu chapter 2016:

- President: Tim Cotita
- President-elect: Ryan Fulford
- Vice-President: Debra Craighead
- Secretary: Sandy Bailey
- Treasurer: Martha Goodman
- Faculty Counselors: Sherry Peveto and Kathy Kennedy
- Governance Chair: Karen Arrant



# LAMBDA MU CHAPTER INDUCTION & INSTALLATION CEREMONY

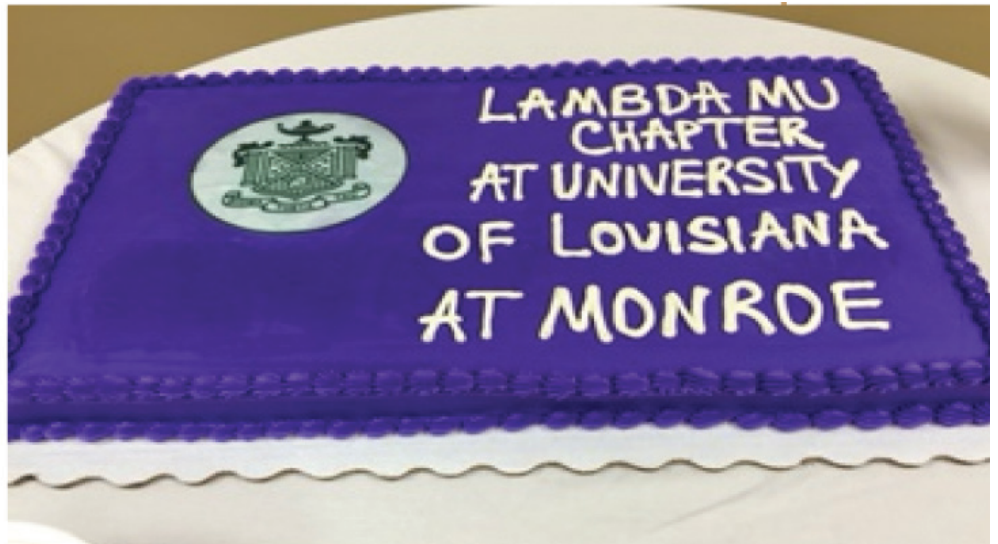
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Speaker, Ryan Fulford



From left to right: Audrey Rayford, Sandra Ogg, Candace Gandy



## OBITUARIES



**Helen McAlmond**  
**September 20, 1926 - May 19, 2015**

Funeral services for Helen McAlmond, 88, of Monroe, LA were held at 2:00 PM, Friday, May 22, 2015 in the chapel of Kilpatrick Funeral Home of Monroe with Bro. Lindle Stewart officiating. Interment followed at New Light Baptist Church Cemetery, Monroe under the direction of Kilpatrick Funeral Home of Monroe. Mrs. McAlmond was born on September 20, 1926 in Dunn, Louisiana and passed away on May 19, 2015 in Monroe, LA. She lived and worked in Monroe from 1963 until May 19, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Kenneth McAlmond. She is survived by a daughter, Dr. Penelope "Penny" McAlmond-Ross and a son, Frederick Dale McAlmond and wife, Nancy; sisters, Joy Young and Ann Cannon and husband, Tommy; brother, Frederick W. Tillman; grandson, Joel Rene' Ross and wife, Julie; granddaughter, Armanda McAlmond Coleman and husband, Howland; and great-grandchildren, Brooke Ross, Josh Coleman, and Katie Coleman. Visitation was from 1:00 PM until the time of service at 2:00 PM, Friday at Kilpatrick Funeral Home of Monroe. She was a retired NLU Nursing professor. Mrs. McAlmond was a ULM graduate and retired ULM professor of Nursing. She was a long time member of the ULM Alumni Association. She was a former Director at one of the local hospitals. Mrs. McAlmond was passionate about nursing and teaching students to provide the best care. She made a tremendous impact on her peers as well as her students. She will be remembered fondly for her dedication and compassion.

# OBITUARIES



## **Jeanne Seidensspinner**

Funeral services were held for Jeanne Seidensspinner, 60 of Monroe, was held at 3:00 PM, Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church with Father Joe Martina and Father Job Scaria officiating. Interment followed at Mulhearn Memorial Park under the direction of Kilpatrick Funeral Home of Monroe.

Jeanne was born on September 6, 1954 in Monroe, LA and passed away on March 12, 2015 in Monroe, LA after a courageous battle with ALS. She went to our Lady of Fatima and St. Frederick High School before enrolling at NLU where she received her BS in Nursing.

After receiving her degree, she was interviewed by Sister Liguori at St. Francis Hospital. Jeanne always said she was chosen for the job because Sister thought she would stay. Well, Jeanne did stay for 38 years, where she worked on the Post-Op surgery floor for almost her entire career. She loved St. Francis Hospital.

Jeanne liked the outdoors. She was an avid camper and in her earlier days loved to ride motorcycles when she wasn't water skiing or fishing. Jeanne never could sit still. When she was home she was working in the yard or crocheting.



## **Deborah "Debbie" Lue Maroney**

Deborah "Debbie" Lue Maroney was born on October 23, 1957 to proud parents Johan and Nancy Maroney. On the day she was born in October, the good Lord said there could only be one Debbie, and the mold was broken. The Lord called her to heaven on September 4, 2015.

Debbie grew up with wonderful memories and adventures with her family. She attended Sherrouse Elementary, Swartz Jr. High, and later Ouachita High School where she was a member of the dance team, The Ouachita Dandelions. She graduated from Ouachita in 1975, and that same year was crowned Miss Louisiana Teenager. She loved to sing and traveled the country for years with the College Place Baptist Youth Choir. Debbie graduated from ULM with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. She loved life and all the people and for years practiced her passion and calling of Nursing at North Monroe Hospital in the emergency room and endoscopy where she was loved by so many. Among many of her other accomplishments, were working as a flight nurse, Department of Homeland security and the American Red Cross.



## **Gaytha Johnson**

Funeral services for Gaytha Johnson, age 69 of Grayson, was held at 1100 am Friday, January 29, 2016. Mrs. Johnson was born on March, 1940 in Columbia, LAA to the union of her parents, Melvin and Ethel Bratton Bates and passed from this life on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at Ruston Nursing and Rehab Center, Ruston after a lengthy illness.

Gaytha was a nurse at heart before she received her RN degree from NLU. She had a calling for taking care of people and helping them through their illnesses and injuries, especially her family members that she put all her strength and love into until they were healed. Gaytha was a valiant force in the medical industry as she started the Oncology Unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, began the Medical Center at the Jackson Parish Correctional Center for the inmates and mentored several student nurses at ULM. She was dutiful in her church as a Sunday School teacher for many years and sang in the choir. She HAD many hobbies including working in her yard, sewing, embroidery work, cooking and baking.

# NURSING CLASS OF 2016



We are very proud of our Nursing Program at ULM. Our instructors are dedicated to helping our students become successful and competent nurses.

[ulm.edu/nursing](http://ulm.edu/nursing)

ULM is a member of the UL System • AA/EOE