

CONTENTS

- 2** **NURSING NEWS:**
 - Reaccreditation Visit
 - School of Nursing LPN Program
 - SON Expands Online Degree Programs
- 3**
 - Circle of Friends
 - Electives
 - Historical ULM Nursing Exhibit in ULM Library
- 4**
 - ULM SON Students Volunteer at Special Needs Shelter
- 5**
 - Reception for Faculty & Staff Volunteers During Hurricanes Ike & Gustav
- 6**
 - Glenwood Regional Medical Center Auxillary Awards Scholarships
 - Scholarships
 - ULM SON Hosts Health Fair for Employees
- 7**
 - Fall 2008 & Spring 2009 Convocation
- 8** **FACULTY NEWS:**
 - News
- 9**
 - Grants
 - Tenure
 - Dr. Jan Corder Named Professor & Dean Emeritus
- 10** **STUDENTS:**
 - Sigma Theta Tau/Lambda Mu
- 11** **ALUMNI:**
 - Denton
 - Cecchini
- 12** **OBITUARIES:**
 - Steffenson
 - Thurman
 - Kelly
 - Marsala

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we continue to strive for excellence we have encountered many new challenges. Immediately after our last newsletter was released, The state, city and university were tremendously impacted by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. In the aftermath of the storms the School of Nursing (SON) building was found to have sustained roof damage that forced complete evacuation of the building. The SON office is currently located in the Library along with faculty offices. Temporary space has been developed in Sandel Hall (previously the library building) for the skills practice lab, simulation lab, and additional faculty offices. Planning has begun for building repair and redesign of classroom space. Faculty and students have persevered and eagerly wait reoccupying the building in summer of 2010.



*Florencetta Hayes Gibson, Ph.D., APRN
Director, Professor,
School of Nursing
(Dec., 1976)*

Despite these challenges we remain strong and focused. Graduate performance on NCLEX continues to exceed state and national averages. The 2008 pass rate for first time NCLEX candidates in Louisiana was 90.21%. Our graduates preformed at 98.59%. Nationally we continue to surpass the average NCLEX performance for first time candidates. In a report detailing our NCLEX performance from October 2008 – March 2009, 96% of our graduates were successful on their first testing compared to an 86% success rate nationally. The May 2009 graduates scored a perfect score on NCLEX. These statistics indicate that ULM continues to prepare quality graduates to safely practice the profession of nursing.

The program continues to be accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). We are making application for reaccreditation and will host an assessment visit in April of 2010 from CCNE and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. This reaccreditation cycle is an opportunity for you to contact CCNE and share with them your views about the program. Please send all comments to: **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036.**

The future is bright! Despite the economic climate we are continuing to enroll greater numbers of registered nurses seeking to earn a baccalaureate degree through our totally on-line format. Plans for an on-line MSN in Nursing Administration have been submitted and are under review. Faculty members are continuing to earn certifications and are pursuing doctoral degrees in nursing and related disciplines. Graduates are recruited nationally and practice in a variety of care settings in numerous geographic locations. Students embrace the community by performing more than 600 hours of community service each semester. The School of Nursing is excellence in action. Please continue to support us as we impact health care into the next millennium.

REACCREDITATION VISIT

The School of Nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe wishes to announce we will be hosting a site visit April 12-14, 2010 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) for reaccreditation and continued approval of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

ULM School of Nursing and CCNE recognize that program constituents have valuable perspectives concerning the program's qualifications for accreditation status.

The ULM School of Nursing invites interested parties to submit signed comments about the ULM School of Nursing with receipt no later than March 12, 2010 to : **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530; Washington, DC 20036.**

SCHOOL OF NURSING LPN PROGRAM

ULM School of Nursing offers a unique track to transition the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) into the BSN program. Upon meeting the ULM SON admissions and academic standards, successful completion of a LPN to RN Transitions Course and NLN testing, LPN students are admitted into semester two of the professional program. Presently there are 10 students enrolled in the LPN to BSN program. Contact Juliet Burgess, MSN, RN (burgess@ulm.edu) for more information.

ULM SCHOOL OF NURSING CONTINUES TO EXPAND ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR WORKING STUDENTS

The addition of two more online degree programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in Spring 2009 – one through the School of Nursing and one through the College of Business – offers the opportunity for students to pursue an education while continuing to work in their field.

ULM's School of Nursing will offer an online Bachelor of Science degree, primarily focused on giving working registered nurses with an associate's degree the opportunity to advance their education.

"Registered nurses have clinical skills and have already passed the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination), but they may be ready to take their education to the next level," said ULM's Director of Nursing Dr. Florencetta Gibson. "This program affords them the opportunity to do that."

Studies show hospital mortality rates are decreased with a higher educated staff, said

Gibson, and companies could benefit when employees take advantage of online offerings that expand the knowledge base of nursing staff.

**GIBSON —
"REGISTERED NURSES
HAVE CLINICAL SKILLS AND
HAVE ALREADY PASSED
THE NCLEX (NATIONAL
COUNCIL LICENSURE
EXAMINATION), BUT THEY
MAY BE READY TO TAKE
THEIR EDUCATION TO
THE NEXT LEVEL...THIS
PROGRAM AFFORDS THEM
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
DO THAT."**

Though the program is geared toward nurses educated at the associate's degree level, plans are in development for BSN nurses who want to pursue their master's of science to do so online.

A March 2008 report titled, "The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends and Implications" found that the demand for RNs is expected to grow by 2 to 3 percent each year.

Recruitment and registration sessions were held in April which was well attended by area nurses.

More information about the ULM School of Nursing may be obtained by visiting www.ulm.edu/nursing or contacting Mrs. Juliet Burgess at burgess@ulm.edu.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Mary Coleman is the president of Uniforms for You located in West Monroe, Louisiana. She is proud to have served many students and medical professionals of Northeast Louisiana since February 1986.



Mary Coleman

Coleman expressed that it has been an awesome experience to partner with the Student Nurses Association (SNA) at ULM School of Nursing and to present a uniform style show each spring at SNA Day. She has found it a privilege to fund scholarships, encourage nursing students to be professional in every way, choose professional attire and be active in the organization for student nurses.

She feels her investment in time, energy, and scholarships for student nurses will be, in the long run, beneficial to her, her family and the community. Many thanks to her for her support of the ULM School of Nursing and funding of nursing scholarships.

SCHOOL OF NURSING ELECTIVES

In addition to meeting the University's core curriculum, the School of Nursing offers summer electives to facilitate meeting broader educational needs of health care professionals. Presently, the School of Nursing offers elective courses during Summer I and Summer II sessions only. Electives offered during Summer 2009 included: Perioperative Nursing; Women's Health Issues; Reducing Infant Mortality the Nurse's Role; Medical Surgical Emergencies; Oncology Nursing; and Assessment in Health Maintenance in the Aging Patient. Courses are offered on a rotational basis. Other electives include Neonatal Health Promotion, Faith Community Nursing, Ethnic Nursing Care, and Critical Care Nursing (adult, pediatric, and neonatal). Some courses are online while others require classroom and/or clinical attendance. Contact the ULM School of Nursing if you are interested in taking a course for graduate credit, to meet CE requirement, or for enrichment.

SPRING 2010
Our School of Nursing 50th Anniversary!
Watch the SON Website for celebration details

HISTORICAL ULM NURSING EXHIBIT IN LIBRARY

Displayed in the University of Louisiana at Monroe Library Special Collections, Passman Room, was an exhibit highlighting the history and evolution of nursing at ULM. Nursing first began at Northeast Louisiana State College in 1960. The exhibit chronicled changes in the School of Nursing as the college evolved from Northeast Louisiana State College to Northeast Louisiana University and then to The University of Louisiana at Monroe.

The exhibit included memorabilia from graduates of the School of Nursing including school pins, nursing caps, lamps, student nurse uniforms, and aprons. Other items on display include authentic historical nursing dolls crafted by Professor Linda E. Sabin, PhD, RN, honoring outstanding nurses in the nursing profession. Portraits and posters for nursing recruitment from World War I and II, along with portraits of nurses and student nurses, were included in the art work. Vintage nursing equipment including bedpans, glass syringes, nurse's capes, caps and uniforms, books, and figurines were included in the display.



ULM SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

Beginning Sunday, August 31, 2009, nursing faculty and students provided around the clock care at Fant Ewing Coliseum, in one of the special needs shelters in the area for hundreds of Hurricane Gustav evacuees.

The project was managed by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Department of Social Services and is supported in partnership with the ULM's School of Nursing. The School of Nursing supplied more than 20 beds from the nursing lab to help with the effort. The faculty and students worked hard to meet all the needs of patients including physical and emotional needs.

More than 275 evacuees occupied the shelter that filled the coliseum floor. Patients in the Coliseum had illnesses ranging from chronic respiratory conditions to post operative wounds.



RECEPTION FOR FACULTY, AND STAFF WHO VOLUNTEERED DURING HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE

By Laura Woodard

ULM President James Cofer expressed his appreciation October 3, 2008, during a special reception for the more than 200 faculty, staff, and students who volunteered during Hurricane Gustav and Hurricane Ike. Approximately 150 of the volunteers attended the reception, which was held in the Student Union Building Ballroom.

Of ULM’s extraordinary volunteer efforts, Cofer said: “I realize that many of the activities that you participated in August and September may have been dangerous, may have been hazardous, and most times really uncomfortable. I think that says a lot about the kindness of students and faculty and staff that we have on this campus—that they are willing to volunteer in the worst of circumstances to help those who are most in need.

“Once again, thank you so much for everything you do with this campus. As I’ve said many times before, these kinds of efforts make all of us at ULM proud to be here, and we really, really appreciate it. Thank you.”

The volunteer effort included:

- Nursing and Pharmacy faculty, staff and students who worked around-the-clock at the Special Needs Shelter in Fant-Ewing Coliseum.
- College of Health Sciences faculty and students, including those from Nursing, Radiological Technology, Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology, volunteered at the shelter in the former State Farming building and at the shelter in the Monroe Civic Center.



GLENWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Glenwood Regional Medical Center's Auxiliary awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to deserving healthcare students on Friday, June 13, 2009, at the Glenwood Medical Mall Community Room. For over 30 years the Auxiliary has proudly awarded scholarships to a number of students in various healthcare fields, seeking degrees and advanced degrees. For the past 3 years, Mike Hipp, owner of the "Glenwood Gift Corner", has contributed one of the \$1,000 scholarships.

2009 Scholarship Recipients:

- Trent Bratton, RN, who is employed in the Glenwood Cath Lab is a student at Northwestern State University-Shreveport, seeking his Nurse Practitioner degree. Trent is a graduate of West Monroe High School and ULM School of Nursing.
- Lindsey Ferracci is a senior nursing student at ULM. She is a resident of Monroe and a graduate of Neville High School.
- Kari Krestenson, is a junior nursing student at ULM. She is a resident of Calhoun and a graduate of Cedar Creek High School in Ruston.

SCHOLARSHIPS

THREE scholarships were awarded Spring 2009 to students. Karla Wiggers, a Semester III student received the Uniforms for You scholarship, which is awarded every year by Mary Coleman of Uniforms for You. Jessica Williamson, a Semester IV student, and Brandon Davis, a Semester III student, received the Carol Price Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, which is awarded every year. This scholarship was established by family and friends in memory of Carol Price, a nursing faculty at then Northeast Louisiana University. Congratulations to all three recipients.

SPRING 2010

Our School of Nursing 50th Anniversary!

Watch the SON Website for celebration details

ULM SCHOOL OF NURSING HOSTS HEALTH FAIR FOR ULM EMPLOYEES

On March 30, 2009 the ULM School of Nursing Community/Public Health Nursing Students hosted a health fair for the employees of the University. The Health fair was presented in response to an assessment of the health needs of the community of ULM employees performed by the nursing students.

Besides the School of Nursing, participants included the ULM Departments of Kinesiology, Pharmacy, Dental Hygiene, Marriage and Family Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Student Health Services, and Burke & Burke Insurance. Community partnerships included St. Francis Medical Center, Glenwood Medical Center, Green Chiropractic, Office of Group Benefits, Kitty Degree Breast Health Center, and Life Share Blood Centers.

Services offered to the ULM employees at no charge included screenings for blood glucose, cholesterol, problems, body mass indices, vision, hearing, and hypertension. Health education was offered on nutrition, dental care, sun and heat exposure, body mechanics, diet and exercise, heart health, breast and testicular cancer self screening, stress reduction, smoking cessation, substance abuse, and the availability of counseling services. The Human resources Department offered information about health insurance plans available to the employees.

On December 12th, 2008, University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) School of Nursing conducted the Fall 2008 Convocation in Brown Auditorium. Florencetta Gibson, PhD, APRN, Director welcomed all in attendance and introduced the speaker. The Speaker for the ceremony was a former ULM nursing graduate, Roy Eppinette, BSN, RN. Eppinette is employed at St. Francis Medical Center of Monroe, LA. Jan Corder, PhD, RN President of Lambda Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau presented the honor cords to sixteen students who are members of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. Kristi Carnahan was awarded the Outstanding Student award selected by the faculty. The peer award selected by the students was awarded to Christy Belgard. The Sigma Theta Tau Award winner was Sheena Pearson. Dr. Gibson presented pins to forty-six graduates.

FALL 2008 GRADUATES

Adcock, Brandi Nicole
 Allbritton, Barbara Jean King
 Ansar Shejan
 Baldino, Jessica,
 Barocco, Nicole Marie*
 Beach, Matthew Ross*
 Belgard, Christy Anne
 Bonner, Cheryl Riley
 Braddock, Jane Beauregard
 Bradford, Eleizabeth Charlene
 Bradshaw, Kelly A.
 Carnahan, Kristi Ann*
 Carbrey, Caitlin Elizabeth
 Coon Kerry Miklosey
 Dubois, Hannah Marie
 Garrett, Jennifer Madden

Gathright, Kila Kristen*
 Graves, Mary Sue Ellen*
 Hudson, Quanique Latice
 Javers, Ray
 Jefferson Sharon Martin
 Johnson, Cristie Barton*
 Johnson, William Kirk
 Jones, Kelly Clauss*
 Jordan DaShauna Nicole
 Koonce, Tina*
 Le, Trinh, Thi*
 Lenox, Leah Michelle
 Lomax, Anne Gregory
 Martinez, Jansen Leach*
 May, Ana Noelle

McCormick, Rhonda Hammett
 McKenzie Michelle Cherie*
 Merrill, Mallory Catherine
 Nicolle, Gabrielle Sims*
 Pearson, Sheena Marie*
 Peters, Amy Strickland
 Pickering, LaTrendalea Bostick
 Ramos, Ramon A.
 Rawls, Meg
 Rowell, Heather Danielle
 Spann, Joyce*
 Wallis, Amy Kathleen*
 Watts, Lindsay Erin
 Welch, Kristy Lopez*
 Willie, Sarah Nicole*

On May 15th, the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) School of Nursing held its biannual convocation in Brown Auditorium. Florencetta Gibson, PhD, APRN, Director opened the ceremony with the welcome and introduction of the speaker. The speaker was a former ULM nursing graduate, Linda Holyfield, MSN, BSN, RN, CNO Physicians & Surgeons Hospital of Monroe, LA. Dr. Gibson presented the awards. Emily Covington was awarded the Outstanding Student and Sigma Theta Tau Awards and Angela McCorvey was awarded Peer Award which is selected by her fellow students. Members of the Lambda Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Society were presented honor cords by Meme Johnson MSN, RN, President. Thirty nursing students received nursing pins from Dr. Gibson

SPRING 2009 GRADUATES

Achilihu, Carolyn O.*
 Africa, Jessica-Nicole*
 Anderson, Jerred L.
 Anderson, Sharonda Yvette
 Beard, Jessica Roberts
 Boykin, Amanda*
 Broom, Heather LaShay*
 Burks, Jamie Leigh*
 Calhoun, Mary Kathryn
 Combs, MaryAnn Dugdale*
 Covington, Emily Anne*

Davis, Ashley Higginbotham
 Dopson, Ashlely Ann*
 Estes, Natalie Marie*
 Floyd, Kathryn Rachel
 Garrett, Raymond Haynes, Jr.
 Gray, Kyndel Alona
 Hawthorne, Mallory Kim
 Hogg, Dyaamond Tryshel
 McCorvey, Angela Denise
 Ogden, Tony

Pasero, Beth
 Place, Brittany Michelle*
 Shrestha, Nayana
 Sims, Michael Blaise
 Southern, Ashley Danielle
 Stanley, Argie J.*
 Terra, Tiffany Green
 Walley, Kacie Osborn*
 West, Amanda LeaAnn

* Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) identifies its core values as excellence, scholarship, diversity, responsibility, and being student-centered. As an extension of ULM's service to its students and communities served, the School of Nursing (SON) is committed to providing, "...continuing education to meet the needs of the nursing community of Northeast Louisiana, provide professional service to the community, and promote the development of the nursing profession through scholarly activity" and has identified the goals of instruction, research, and service.

Your SON faculty are serving you and our communities in a number of ways.

FACULTY NEWS

Danita Potter, Assistant Professor in Semester I, is attending Hampton University completing a Ph.D. in Nursing with a focus in Family Nursing Research and Nursing Education.

Emily S. Doughty, Associate Director, is completing work on an Ed.D. in Health Care Education, with a focus on Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Juliet Burgess, Coordinator of Nursing Concepts, is completing work on an Ed.D. in Health Care Education, with a focus on Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Belinda Morgan, Coordinator of Nursing Interventions, is targeting a December 2009 completion date as she pursues a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Leadership and Business of Health Care from Rush University-Chicago.

Cathy Campbell, Assistant Professor in Semester II, is attending North Central University pursuing an Ed.D. in Leadership in Higher Education.

Celia Laird, Assistant Professor in Semester IV, has been selected as a member of the AACN Research Abstract Review Panel. She also was a member of the CCRN 2009 Exam Development Committee.



Celia Laird



School of Nursing Faculty, Fall 2009

GRANTS

Connie Lewis and **Stacy Webb** were awarded a grant in December 2008 from the Living Well Foundation in the amount of \$48,600 to provide infant nutrition education to expectant mothers in Ouachita Parish throughout the year of 2009. One of the goals of this grant is to gather data and volunteers for additional research to determine the effects of infant nutritional education on childhood obesity.

Sally Brooks is involved in a March of Dimes grant project as the nurse consultant. The grant is entitled: Gestational Diabetes: A Growing Problem.

Renee Miller and **Danita Potter** share involvement in a University of Louisiana system awarded grant funding the Food for Thought: Linking Nutrition, Health, and School Performance project intended to increase awareness of the impact of nutrition on student learning and to promote healthy food choices on school menus. The Food for Thought project is a collaborative effort between the SON and ULM College of Education.

Dr. F. Gibson was awarded \$123,000 by Ouachita Workforce Investment Area I to enhance faculty support with student remediation. She was also awarded \$53,000 from this same agency to provide Health Professions Awareness camps during Summer 2009 for students ages 16-21. The camps explored health careers, educational requirements and provided hands on activities and field trips designed to stimulate interest in health careers.

Sherilyn Wiggins was awarded a Service Learning grant in partnership with the Morehouse School of Medicine. A summer elective on Reducing Infant Mortality was offered which included clinical experiences at a number of community agencies. The students taught women of childbearing age strategies for reducing risk for infant mortality, which exceeds the national average by more than half in this area. This partnership between the ULM School of Nursing and Morehouse School of Medicine is continuing with further projects planned.

TENURE

In September, 2009, **Juliet Burgess** was tenured in the ULM School of Nursing. Burgess graduated from University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1973 and completed her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix in 2003.

She has been employed by ULM since 1993 in various capacities including Skills Lab Coordinator, Coordinator of the Communicable Disease Control Clinic, and faculty member. Burgess is currently Coordinator of Nursing Concepts in The School of Nursing. She is currently attending NOVA Southeastern University pursuing an Education Doctorate.

She is a member of the International Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, Lambda Mu Chapter, American Nurses Association, Louisiana State Nurses Association, and the Monroe District Nurses Association.

DR. JAN CORDER NAMED PROFESSOR AND DEAN EMERITUS

Dr. Jan Corder, former director of the ULM School of Nursing and Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences was named Professor and Dean Emeritus. She is the first professor emeritus to be named in the ULM School of Nursing. Corder retired May, 2008 after many years of services and holding many positions within the University including Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean of College of Pharmacy, and Interim Dean of the College of Health Science. She graduated in the first nursing class from Northeast Louisiana State College now ULM.



Dr. Jan Corder

She received her Master's from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and her Doctorate of Nursing Science from University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Corder has served on many state committees including Louisiana Health Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Nursing Supply and Demand Commission. She is a past President of the Louisiana State Nurses Association and past chairperson of the Louisiana Council of Nurse Education Administrators.

Dr. Corder is currently President and CEO of the of the Living Well Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Louisiana Cancer Foundation, past board member of North Louisiana AHEC Board, and past President of Lambda Mu Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International. She also serves as a site visitor for CCNE in accrediting nursing schools across the country.

SIGMA THETA TAU

Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society for nurses, was founded in 1922 by six nursing students at Indiana University. Since that time it has grown to include over 400,000 members from 86 countries. Lambda Mu Chapter is the University of Louisiana at Monroe affiliate of this international organization.

The mission of this organization is to “support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide”. In support of this, Lambda Mu Chapter hosted a reception on November 10, 2009 honoring nursing students in the ULM professional program who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Membership in Sigma Theta Tau is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing.

On April 3, 2009 an induction ceremony and installation of officers was held at the ULM Library 7th floor conference room.

In addition, the following registered nurse leaders from our community were inducted:

Pam Campbell
Diane Davis
Christine Richmond

ΣΘΤ LAMBDA MU

THE 2009-2010 OFFICERS ARE:

PRESIDENT
MEME JOHNSON

VICE PRESIDENT
KIM STUCKEY

SECRETARY
STACEY WEBB

TREASURER
KAREN ARRANT

FACULTY COUNSELORS
SALLY BROOKS & KATHY DAVENPORT

THE FOLLOWING SENIOR NURSING STUDENTS WERE INDUCTED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Carolyn Achilihu	Krista Fobbs
Jessica Africa	Daniel Griffin
Lauren Benton	Tiffany Micka
Amanda Boykin	Christin Mohon
Heather Broom	Kylie Morris
Brooke Brown	Kelly Phillips
Jamie Burks	Brittany Place
Mary Combs	Regena Richmond
Emily Covington	Heather Robertson
Lori Crockett	Christina Ross
Amanda Davison	Chasidy Smith
Ashley Dopson	Argie Stanley
Chelsea Eades	Kacie Walley
Natalie Estes	

Many of our faculty and graduates are pursuing advanced degrees, excelling in new and exciting fields of nursing, making presentations, doing research, participating in projects, writing grant proposals, and embarking on new adventures! Also, many have traveled and studied or worked in new interesting places. Many of you have celebrated exciting events or been faced with challenges in your personal lives.

Everyone would love to hear about what you are doing, and what is happening in your lives. Please send any and all ULM nursing school alumni news to this news letter. We would love to hear from you.

Linda Diane Denton (previously Linda Denton Holley) Nursing Class of 1983 received her Master of Science in Nursing (with an Education focus) in December of 2007 from University of NC at Greensboro. Currently, she is working at UNC Hospitals in the Newborn Critical Care Unit where she is a Clinical Nurse III and preceptor. Also, she taught Pediatrics at Alamance Community College during summer 2008 session and hopes to do more part time teaching in nursing schools.

Visit us online:

www.ulm.edu/nursing/

“Hi, my name is Heather Zornes Cecchini. I graduated from ULM in Dec. 2000 as Heather Zornes. I have worked in many fields of nursing since graduating including Med/Surg, Adult Oncology, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Orthopedics, Nursing Research and Home Health. I am currently a Case Manager for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. I started working on my Masters in Nursing in 2006 part time. I plan to graduate from SELU in Hammond with my MSN/Adult Nurse Practitioner Degree in May 2010. I am a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Rho Zeta Chapter. I am working on my research project this semester on Holistic Nursing and hope to get it published in a nursing journal. I am a mother to a 5 year old son and a 12 week old daughter. I work full time as a Case Manager and am taking graduate classes part time. I am very busy! I really enjoyed the nursing program (with the exception of Level I, it was so stressful!) at ULM. I believe the program gave me the confidence to continue on with my nursing career. I hope to come back to Monroe in the next few years for a reunion with my nursing class of 2000, or better yet, maybe I will teach at the School of Nursing once I graduate! “



Heather Zornes Cecchini,
RN/BSN (Dec. 2000)
34154 Fountain View Drive
Walker, LA 70785
225-667-6809

OBITUARIES



Norma G. Steffenson

Norma Gates Steffenson (1949-2009)

Funeral services for Norma Gates Steffenson was held May 9, 2009 in West Monroe, Louisiana with Rev. Wanda Consentino officiating.

Steffenson was a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University School of Nursing and received her Masters of Nursing from TWU in Houston, TX. She was retired from the University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Nursing and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society.

She is survived by her husband, Marty Steffenson and son, Verlyn Steffenson.



Ruth E. Hogan Thurman

Ruth Elizabeth Hogan Thurman (1948-2009)

Funeral services for Ruth Elizabeth Hogan Thurman of Clinton, MS formerly of West Monroe, LA was held September 3, 2009 at Cedar Crest Baptist Church in West Monroe. Bros. Greg Clark and Greg Belser officiated.

Thurman was survived by her sons, Paul A. Thurman and Brian Thurman.

Thurman was a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Nursing and had a masters degree in nursing. She had worked at ULM and had taught nursing at Hines Community College.



Beverly Kelly

Beverly Kay Grant Kelly (1956-2009)

Funeral services for Beverly Kay Grant Kelly of Spring Texas were held in Columbia, Louisiana with Rev. Lavelle Hatten officiating.

Kelly was at 1978 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Nursing. Her calling in nursing was that of newborn medicine and neo-natal units. She also taught nursing in Bartlettville, Oklahoma.

She is survived by her husband, Mike Kelly, her son, Jason Kelly, and her parents.



Teresa Clark Marsala

Teresa Clark Marsala (1952-2009)

Funeral services for Mrs. Theresa Clark Marsala were held on February 24, 2009 at Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church with Father Mark Watson officiating. Teresa is survived by her husband, Tommy Marsala; her four children and their families, and four grandchildren.

Marsala held two degrees from ULM, a BSN from the ULM School of Nursing and a Master's in Family Therapy. Theresa was a highly respected professional in the community, serving her healthcare profession, community, and church. She was a former employee of St. Francis Medical Center having served most recently as Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services. Marsala was recently employed as the Administrator of the Louisiana Extended Care Hospital in West Monroe. She was active in a number of organizations and served on the ULM School of Nursing Advisory Board.



SPRING 2010
*Our
School
of Nursing
50th
Anniversary!*

*Watch the SON Website
for celebration details*

SCHOOL OF NURSING NEWSLETTER INFORMATION SHEET

DON'T LET GOOD NEWS about you go unnoticed! This form has been designed to help the School of Nursing better coordinate news and feature coverage concerning former students. We are interested in upcoming events, personality profiles, professional development and accomplishments, unique or unusual programs or research, feature ideas, publications and even hobbies.

HOW TO USE THIS FORM

Submit your information to: ULM School of Nursing, 700 University Ave. Monroe, LA 71209 or e-mail to morgan@ulm.edu.

Person Submitting Information _____

Graduating Class _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Name _____

Department _____

Brief explanation of personal news/activity or involvement/publications and presentations

LET US HEAR FROM YOU