

# PhD News



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF NURSING

April 2017



**Spring is in  
the air...**

## FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Dogwood trees are blooming, spring semester classes are drawing to a close, and it is time to celebrate the accomplishments of this academic year. We will also take a first look at our incoming fall class of PhD students, which includes 3 BSN-to-PhD students and 10 students who enter doctoral study already holding the MSN. We will meet them at Orientation on August 28.



If you missed the colloquium April 5, you missed stellar presentations by PhD and DNP students. Colloquia provide a great way for faculty and students to interact outside of regular classes. Concepts, theories, research ideas, and other issues of common interest are always explored in colloquia, and the sharing of information is very rich.

Please review this newsletter carefully for upcoming events of the semester, as well as news about faculty, student, and alumni accomplishments. If we did not list your accomplishments, we didn't know about them! Please remember to send news of presentations and publications so that we can congratulate you in future newsletters.

**Sandra Thomas**

Chair, PhD Program



## Contact Us

### University of Tennessee

1200 Volunteer Blvd  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
865-974-4151

[www.nursing.utk.edu](http://www.nursing.utk.edu)

## UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

**April 20**—Mary Bess Griffith will defend her doctoral dissertation, “A Grounded Theory Inquiry into Crying in Women Dealing with the Emotional Stress of Personal Crisis,” at 10 AM on April 20 in room 313. All are welcome to attend. Watch your email for the link to participate from a distance by Zoom.

**May 12**—Graduating doctoral students will be hooded by their chairpersons, to the cheers of the audience of family and friends, at the commencement ceremony at 7 PM at Thompson-Boling Arena.

---

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HONORS:

Congratulations to three faculty members who have been named to new positions: **Tami Wyatt** is the new Associate Dean for Research, **Sadie Hutson** is the interim Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs, and **Sue McClennon** is the new coordinator of the undergraduate honors program.

**Nan Gaylord** was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing at its fall meeting, and **Carole Myers** presented a poster there, “NPs Full Practice Authority in Tennessee: Needs and Impacts.”

**Kathy Newnam** was appointed to the editorial board of *Advances in Neonatal Care*. She will serve as co-section editor of the Case of the Month and will also write and solicit authors for the journal's Noteworthy News feature.

In the interests of space, in this newsletter issue we are omitting mention of the many faculty presentations and publications over the past few months (TNTC as they say in lab reports).

---



## KUDOS, APPLAUSE, AND HUGS ALL AROUND TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:



**Kim Powell** successfully defended her dissertation, “Using the Electronic Patient Portal to Engage Patients with Multiple

Chronic Conditions,” which is an excellent exemplar of the 3-manuscript dissertation option. She will graduate in May.

**Jennifer Mabry**, also slated for May graduation, completed her dissertation



research, “The Effects of Motivational Interviewing on Heart Failure Self-Care during Transitional Care in an Appalachian Population.” Jennifer was UTK’s first Jonas Scholar and completed the health policy certificate during her program of study.

**Sheila Williams** reports a paper in press, “Nursing Interventions on Medication Adherence during Hepatitis C Treatment: Application of Self-Regulation Model.” Her paper will appear in *Gastroenterology Nursing*.

**Lauren Oppizzi** will travel to Kenya for 3 weeks (April 28-May 19) to teach at a new nursing school in Kenya and work in some of the nurse-led clinics there.

**Melanie Morris** received a Promise of Nursing Regional Faculty Fellowship in the amount of \$5500. Melanie is currently conducting her dissertation research. She is on the faculty at Vanderbilt University.

**Linda Banks** reports a publication in *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* entitled “Disaster Impact on Impoverished Area of US: An Inter-Professional Mixed Method Study.” Coauthors of her paper included Lisa Davenport, an alumna of the PhD program.

**Jenny Webb** is the proud mom of a baby boy, Landon, weighing 9 lb. 12 oz. Jenny continues to combine work, family, and dissertation, with an aim to graduate by the end of 2017.

**Mary Lou Fornehed** received dissertation funding of \$1500 from the Cookeville Regional Charitable Foundation. She reports that data collection is nearly complete on her study of rural Appalachian decision-making at end of life. She is a full-time lecturer in the School of Nursing at Tennessee Technological University and works PRN as an Acute Care NP at a Cookeville hospital.

**Marissa Bunch** was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi scholastic honor society.

**Jen Shearer’s** paper “Anxiety, Nursing Students, and Simulation: State of the Science” was published in *Journal of Nursing Education*, 55, 551-554.

**Sarah Covington’s Op-Ed (Opinion Editorial)** “US Needs a Single-Payer Health Care System” appeared in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* in November.

**Deb Jones** recently presented her research on children in military families who experience distress because of parental absence at the International Society of



Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses and will repeat the presentation for the Tri-Service Nursing

Research Program conference April 26. Her dissertation is funded in the amount of \$26,996 by TSNRP. Deb is on active duty in the Air Force, stationed in San Antonio, Texas, where she is the Chief of Medical Nursing Services at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. She was recently promoted from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel.

### ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

**Julia Phillippi** has received a grant from AHRQ which provides 3 years of 75% workload support and \$25,000 for training and research. Julia is on the faculty at Vanderbilt University.

**Shari George** has just completed her third mission trip to Migori, Africa (a 9-hour ride west of Nairobi) where the medical team stays in a dorm at an orphanage with 100 children. Shari is on the faculty at University of Alabama, Huntsville.

**Julie Worley**, a resident of Chicago and faculty member at Rush University, was recently interviewed on television by the local Fox News there. Julie's research has also been featured in *Chicago Tribune*.

### FIRST LOOK AT THE INCOMING FALL CLASS:

(Complete profiles to appear in the August newsletter)

- Beth Chatham from Nashville, TN
- Sandra Cobb from Jonesborough, TN
- Altheria Davis from Kingsport, TN
- LaKeva Harris from Leighton, AL
- Leigh Holley from Abilene, TX
- Elizabeth Kellerman from Asheville, NC
- Carrie Lingerfelt from Johnson City, TN
- William McCall from Tullahoma, TN
- Nina Montoya from Gainesville, GA
- Ashley Roach from Portland, OR
- Anita Rogers from Paris, TN
- Megan Steele from Abilene, TX
- Adaya Troyer from Knoxville, TN

Watch for the August newsletter to learn more about this excellent group of incoming students, who have interesting backgrounds and diverse research interests.

### HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

#### CALL FOR BOOK REVIEWS:

The book review editor for *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, PhD alumna Kelly Carlson, invites students to contribute book reviews. This is another good opportunity to gain experience in publishing. Please contact Dr. Carlson at [kcarlso3@gmail.com](mailto:kcarlso3@gmail.com).