



PhD Newsletter

College of Nursing UTK

August 2016

From the Program Chair:

As we embark on a new academic year, I wish all of you—new as well as returning students—as much excitement as I feel. The campus seems to exude vibrant energy as thousands of people who love learning gather to learn more. The College of Nursing exhibits its own special energy because of the important research we are doing and our valuable contributions through outreach to diverse local and international communities. The PhD program is beginning its 27th year, and all of you are integral to continuing our distinguished legacy.

The 2016-2017 year promises to be a very good one. Please review this newsletter carefully for upcoming events, as well as news about the inspiring accomplishments of the faculty, PhD alumni, and currently enrolled PhD students. If we did not list your accomplishments, we didn't know about them! Please remember to send news of your presentations, honors, and publications so that we can congratulate you.

--Sandra Thomas, Chair, PhD Program

Welcome to the Cohort of 2016—

At Orientation, we are welcoming 7 new PhD students:

- Joseph Crawford
- Christine Foley
- Michelle Littleton
- Kelly Mayden
- Dana Monce
- Catherine Powers
- Stephanie Thomas



*We also welcome back Susan Blaine, who has been on a leave of absence. She will be taking core courses with the newly admitted group.

I would like to tell you a little bit about each of the new students.

Joseph Crawford has had an interesting career path, becoming a nurse only recently. His first degree was a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and during his undergraduate years he spent a year abroad at Oxford University in England studying Shakespearean literature. He did work as a paralegal until the events of 9/11 prompted him to turn to nursing. Presently he is a family nurse practitioner. He has been active in American Association of Men in Nursing, ANA, & AACCN. His research interest is cardiovascular disease in women, framed within Mishel's theory of uncertainty. He resides in Bamberg, South Carolina.

Christine Foley is a nurse educator at South College in Asheville, North Carolina, where she taught in the ASN program and now chairs the BSN program. Her clinical background is critical care. She has been active in the North Carolina Nurses Association and NLN. During her MSN program she did a project in collaboration with the Transylvania Health Department on identifying and impacting child obesity.

Michelle Littleton has expertise in critical care along with a background in administration. She is especially interested in health policy regarding cardiac care and in issues of efficiency and cost of cardiac care. Currently she teaches at ETSU and works part-time at Holston Valley Medical Center, where she has won the “service excellence” Press Ganey award. She has set up conferences for the American Heart Association and was active in ANA in the past. Michelle resides in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Kelley Mayden is an oncology nurse practitioner who is interested in complementary/alternative therapies. She has acquired research experience at Wellmont Cancer Institute, McLeod Cancer and Blood Center, and Cancer Outreach Associates, and has she published book chapters and journal articles. Presently, Kelley teaches at King University and lives in Bristol, Tennessee.

Dana Monce first earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and then became an RN through an accelerated program. She has worked in critical care and discovered that she especially enjoyed precepting new graduates in her unit. Therefore, she decided to pursue the PhD because of her interests in becoming an educator and researcher. She will complete our nursing administration concentration courses as part of her BSN to PhD program of study. Dana lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Catherine Powers is a family nurse practitioner who has practiced in a rural health service consortium and an urgent care clinic as well in cardiology and gastroenterology medical offices. She currently teaches at ETSU and plans to conduct an education-focused dissertation. She has been active in many professional organizations, including ANA, TNA, American Heart Association, and Sigma Theta Tau. Catherine resides in Bristol, TN.

Stephanie Thomas plans to focus on hypertension management in older African American men, and she has been gaining research experience working on an interdisciplinary team project in Georgia investigating self-management of chronic disease. She earned both BSN and BS in Education degrees from UT Knoxville, and the MSN from Clayton State University. Presently, she teaches at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, Georgia.

Good news—The Institutional Review Board of the university has announced new application forms for research with human subjects, along with detailed instructions for completing both the initial application form and the necessary forms for reporting changes in research projects that are under way. Step-by-step instructions were disseminated in July, and workshops are being conducted across campus in August and September. Students who are seeking IRB approval this fall should become familiar with the new materials, which should make the whole process easier.





Upcoming Events/Important Dates--

November 7 –Sigma Theta Tau Research Conference. You will be receiving a call for abstracts and much additional information about the conference at a later date, but please make a note on your calendar. This is an evening conference that takes place during the regularly scheduled on-site session of the PhD program.

December 8- Reception for December Graduates –Immediately before the university’s Graduate Hooding Ceremony, we will be honoring the MSN, DNP, and PhD graduates with a reception. Information regarding the place will be provided in the near future.

February 22-25, 2017—Southern Nursing Research Society 31st Annual Conference takes place in Dallas, Texas. All PhD students are strongly encouraged to attend, if your schedules permit. It is not too early to begin making your plans to attend this important research conference. Student abstracts are being accepted from **September 6 to October 4**. Note that SNRS permits students to submit work in progress, even though it is not completed. For example, you can present your dissertation research prospectus prior to data collection. The conference is a superb opportunity for networking with nurse scientists from diverse PhD programs across the entire Southern region. Attendance at the meeting is often 600 or more. Several sessions are designed especially for PhD students. You do not have to be a member to submit an abstract. However, you will be required to join if you are selected to present a poster at the conference. Please go to www.snrs.org for full information about the conference and abstract submission.



Welcome to new faculty--

Drs. Karen Rose and Joel Anderson, both coming to us from University of Virginia, will be teaching in PhD classes this fall. Dr. Rose will be teaching N610 and Dr. Anderson will be teaching with Dr. Lindley in N608. Both are nationally and internationally prominent scholars with a focus in gerontological nursing. Dr. Anderson is also known for his expertise in statistics and quantitative research design. Both are welcome additions to the PhD faculty!

Useful Book about Dissertation and Capstone Projects:

Sigma Theta Tau has announced a book that may be of interest to you: “A Nurse’s Step-by-Step Guide to Writing Your Dissertation or Capstone.” Please see the STTI web site for ordering information.

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.

Kudos, Applause, and Hugs All Around to Faculty, Students, and Alumni for the Following Accomplishments:

Student Accomplishments:

Jennifer Shearer expanded her state of the science paper from N610 into a forthcoming journal article, “Anxiety, nursing students, and simulation: State of the Science” to appear in *Journal of Nursing Education*.

Sheila Williams’ publication, also based on her N610 paper, will appear in *Gastroenterology Nursing*. Her paper is titled “Impact of Nursing Interventions on Medication Adherence during Hepatitis C Treatment.”

Jennifer Shearer and Linda Banks were selected as 2016-2018 Jonas Leader Scholars. This award is designated for doctoral students whose career goals are obtaining a faculty position and conducting research in one of the Jonas priority topics. Jennifer’s research will be in education/interprofessional education, with mentor Dr. Tami Wyatt, and Linda’s focus will be policy, with mentor Dr. Carole Myers. Jennifer and Linda will participate in a national networking conference in the fall of 2017 and in other activities with Jonas scholars and their mentors over the 2-year period of their Jonas funding.

Jennifer Mabry will receive the Martha E. Rogers Memorial Dissertation Research Award at the Scholarship and Awards Banquet on August 23. This award is designated for a student whose research is based on an explicit nursing conceptual model or theory. Jennifer is using the theory of heart failure self-care by Riegel and Dickson.

Melanie Morris has received a \$5500 award from the Promise of Nursing Regional Faculty Fellowship fund. Melanie will also receive the College of Nursing PhD Research Award at the scholarship banquet.

Shade Adigun had a very busy summer, accomplishing a move to Texas while keeping up with coursework and preparing for prelims. Also moving this summer was Sarah Covington, who has taken a faculty position at Tusculum College.

Faculty Accomplishments:

Dr. Lora Beebe is the author of “Descriptions and Correlates of Medication Adherence, Attitudes, and Self-Efficacy in Outpatients with Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders (SSDs),” coauthored with Kathy Smith (one of our PhD graduates) and Chad Phillips (one of our MSN graduates). The article was published in the June issue of *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*.

Dr. Nan Gaylord has been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Gaylord is a nationally prominent leader in delivery of nursing care to children in school clinics, such as the Vine School Clinic she established here in Knoxville. She has received nearly two million dollars of HRSA funding within the past five years, as well as funding from the National Assembly of School-Based Health Care and from Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Alumni Accomplishments:

Congratulations to alumna Dr. Lisa Kirkland, who has been named the chair of the nursing department at Tennessee Wesleyan University. Lisa is a 2015 PhD graduate.

Dr. Christy Hall, who is on the faculty at East Tennessee State University, has an upcoming publication from her dissertation results in *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*. Christy has been funded for \$1.8 million by HRSA.

Dr. Kelly Carlson made a presentation at the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses in Minneapolis about taking a group of her students from Worcester College to Ireland for an international experience.

Dr. Mona Shattell has been named editor of “Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services,” effective January 2017. Mona is chair of the Department of Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing in the College of Nursing at Rush University. She is known for her research on the nurse-patient relationship and the mental health issues of long-distance truckers. She coauthored an op-ed about truckers that recently appeared in the *New York Times*.

Dr. Shelia Swift is now the assistant dean for undergraduate studies here at UT Knoxville.



Dr. Julie Worley

Dr. Julie Worley received the “Education MVP Award,” based on votes by her faculty colleagues at Rush University in Chicago. Julie’s research was recently featured in Chicago Tribune and her publications have appeared in “Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association,” “Archives of Psychiatric Nursing,” “Issues in Mental Health Nursing,” and many other journals.

Dr. Cecily Strang recently published papers in *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* and *Transcultural Nursing*. She is pictured here to the right with items she collected in Kenya, where she conducted her dissertation research.



Dr. Cecily Strang

**Wishing you an enjoyable and productive fall term!
Go Vols!**

