FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Welcome to all of you—new as well as returning students—to a new academic year at the University of Tennessee. The campus exudes vibrant energy as 28,000 students peruse their syllabi, buy their books, and maybe invest in some new orange clothing. The College of Nursing exhibits its own special energy because of the important research we are doing and our outreach to diverse local and international communities.

The PhD program is beginning its 29th year, and all of you are integral to continuing our distinguished legacy. We will soon reach the milestone of 100 graduates! The 2018-2019 year promises to be a very good one, as we implement PhD curriculum changes and collaborate even more closely with our DNP program. Please review this newsletter carefully for upcoming events, as well as news about the inspiring accomplishments of the PhD alumni and our currently enrolled PhD students. Also, please note that this will be the final issue of the PhD newsletter. Don’t worry! You will still be in the loop for plenty of useful information! The excellent newsletter from the Office of Research Services ("College of Nursing ORS News") will provide information about faculty and student presentations, grants, honors, and publications. The PhD Canvas web site offers timely news and updates from Assistant Dean Dr. Hutson (and/or from me) several times per week. Social media use is also increasing, especially Facebook and Twitter. Stay in touch and share your news!

Sandra Thomas
Chair, PhD Program

GO VOLS!
UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

November 5, 2018—Research Day

Featuring Dr. Harleah Buck from the University of South Florida as keynote speaker, we will gather at the Hilton Downtown Knoxville Hotel for this annual event co-sponsored by several chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International. This event will take place from 5:00-8:30 PM, during the regularly scheduled on-site session of the PhD program. You will receive the link for registration later.

February 27 – March 1, 2019—Southern Nursing Research Society Conference

The 33rd annual conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society will be held in Orlando, Florida. PhD students are strongly encouraged to attend. Attendees have the opportunity to network with scholars from all over the region. The conference includes several sessions specifically designated for doctoral students, and the cost of registration is lower for students. Save the date on your calendar! Please note that SNRS permits students to submit work in progress, even though the research is not completed. The student poster session is a highlight of this conference each year!
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Congratulations to Linda Banks, who passed her comprehensive examination, and to Shade Adigun, who had a successful proposal defense.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RETURNING STUDENTS:

The Graduate School has revised those very important forms that must be submitted after the comprehensive examination. Both the forms and the procedure for submission have been streamlined.

The newly revised PhD Committee Form and Admission to Candidacy Form are available at gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central.

SNRS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 1ST:

The deadline for a $7500 research grant from the Southern Nursing Research Society is October 1, 2018.

Criteria are:

- Current member of SNRS (student or regular member) at the time of application
- Applicant must not have received more than $30,000 (cumulative) funding during the past two years
- Applicant must not have served as the Principal Investigator on a previous SNRS research grant
NEW STUDENT PROFILES

Marissa Bartmess received her BSN from East Tennessee State University, where she conducted a thesis and developed a love for research. She has a strong interest in health policy.

Caroline Hryczyk is a pediatric nurse practitioner who lives in Georgia and is interested in research in rural healthcare. She received her MSN from Emory University.

Carrie McCoy is an adult nurse practitioner who is interested underinsured and underserved populations. She received her MSN from the University of Vermont.

Trisha Mims has an administrative role with the National Student Nurses Association, after earlier career accomplishments such as serving in the Navy and directing a community health center.

Natalie Owsley is on the faculty at UT Chattanooga and a nurse practitioner in Student Health there. Her MSN was earned at UAB.

Jessica Price received her MSN from Southern Adventist University, where she received the Professional Promise Award in Research. She currently teaches at Lee University.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Marissa Bunch has a recent publication, coauthored with Dr. Kathy Newnam, “Glucose Gel as a Treatment Strategy for Transient Neonatal Hypoglycemia,” in “Advances in Neonatal Care.”

Lauren Oppizzi Mefford traveled once again to Kenya this summer to lecture at the WAKA nursing school.

Ashley Roach reports several forthcoming publications related to nursing education issues or to her research focus on adolescent friendships and mental health.

Jen Shearer participated this summer in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research in support of her research on the long-term effects of neonatal abstinence syndrome. Jen has submitted a grant application to AHRQ to fund her dissertation research. She has a recent manuscript, coauthored with Drs. Sharon Davis, Paul Erwin, Joel Anderson, and Lisa Lindley about NAS and neurodevelopmental outcomes.

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY IN THE PHD PROGRAM

Dr. Ruth Lopez joins us from Massachusetts General Institute of the Health Professions in Boston. Dr. Lopez brings a funded grant from the National Institute of Aging with her. Her research focuses on care of nursing home residents with advanced dementia.

BEST WISHES FOR AN ENJOYABLE RETIREMENT

Dr. Marian Roman, who retired from the faculty in May, has been awarded the distinction of being named Professor Emerita.
PhD Alumni Accomplishments

Congratulations to alumna Dr. Julia Phillippi, who will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in November. Julia is on the faculty at Vanderbilt University, where she has established herself as a researcher funded by AHRQ and a prolific writer of scholarly publications. While in the PhD program, Julia was mentored by her dissertation chair Dr. Carole Myers, who will be inducted as a FAAN at the same time. Dr. Myers is also a PhD grad from UTK.

Dr. Kim Powell will continue her post-doc position with the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing this year. She is working with Dr. Gregory Alexander on his AHRQ grant titled “A National Report of Nursing Home Quality Measures and Information Technology.

Alumna Dr. Julie Worley, who is on the faculty at Rush University, has a new publication, “Recovery in Substance Use Disorders: What to Know to Inform Practice.” Dr. Worley’s research has been featured in Chicago Tribune and many psychiatric nursing journals.

Dr. Felecia Rivers recently published “Military Nurse Deployments: Similarities, Differences, and Resulting Issues” in Nursing Outlook.

CALL FOR BOOK REVIEWS:

If you are interested in contributing book reviews for “Issues in Mental Health Nursing,” please contact Dr. Thomas about this opportunity: sthomas@utk.edu.