

Francis Marion University

Department of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

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FMU Nursing on the Move

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- The **pre-licensure program** is gearing up for August! We will have class of over 90 students. Incoming students will participate in community and occupational blood pressure screenings throughout the Pee Dee region.
- Interprofessional Healthcare students will travel to Marlboro and Kingstree County to provide free health care screenings and flu vaccines.
- Pediatric students will be in the schools and Head Start programs providing healthcare teaching and physicals.

Nurse Educator Update by

Dr. Karen Gittings

MSN/FNP Update by Dr. Deborah Hopla

The FNP/MSN program currently added eight new FNP graduate students during Summer admissions.

This gives FMU currently 62 FNP graduate students.

The new students will be taking Research and Evidence-Based Practice during Summer I and Advanced Health Assessment and Health Promotion during Summer II.

The other FNP students will be in Advanced Pediatrics during Summer I and Geriatrics during Summer II.

Summer is a busy time for all our graduate students and we wish them the best!

There have been several inquiries about the difference between the MSN Nurse Educator degree track versus the MSN FNP degree track with the Nurse Educator Certificate. The Nurse Educator degree track is designed for those learners who want to teach. This could be in the academic setting in the classroom or clinical area or in the practice setting as an educator in staff development. The courses in this track (36 credits) thoroughly prepare the learner for the educational role. The FNP degree track is designed for those learners who want a future career as a family nurse practitioner, a clinical practice role. With the addition of the Nurse Educator Certificate (9 credits), the FNP learner is introduced to some educational concepts that can be applied should they desire to become a clinical adjunct instructor in the future. Please contact Dr. Karen Gittings for any further questions at kjittings@fmarion.edu

Ruth Wittmann-Price and John Petrush won an IT grant and the Women's Health students will pilot exams online in the classroom with new software. Exam soft administers the test, scores it, and shows the results to students. This is an effort to save paper and resources.



Alumni Scholarship Donations

We challenge all alumni to match the \$1,000 donation that has already been pledged to the nursing alumni scholarship. Every donation helps! Here is the link: www.fmarion.edu/foundation/scholarships. Please earmark for the Nursing Alumni Scholarship.



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**Political Advocacy by
 Dr. Deborah Hopla**

Nurses must be involved in healthcare policy and advocacy. The advanced practice nurses, consisting of the Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and the Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), introduced legislation in the South Carolina House of Representatives, bill # H3078, to change the laws pertaining to advanced practice nursing. Under this new bill the NPs and the CNMs will eliminate the need for ratios of MDs to NPs. Currently the law allows three Advance Practice Nurses (APRNs) to one MD. The new law addresses the issue of mileage. Currently a MD must be within 45 miles of the practicing APRN. With the new ability of accessing telemedicine this makes the current law antiquated and outdated. Supervisory language would be removed and collaboration added. Delegated medical acts would be removed and APRNs are purposing to have the ability to write for Schedule II medications. Currently APRNs have been safely prescribing medications Schedule III-V for over twenty four years.

Currently 52% of APRNs work with underserved minority or in rural areas. Because SC ranks an "F" in healthcare and ranks 43rd in the Nation for healthcare according to the United Health Foundation America's Health Rankings 2013. APRNs stand ready to assist in meeting the healthcare needs for SC.

Working as a group, the Coalition for Access to Healthcare has met numerous times over the past year. Many of our members have given testimony at the Board of LLR and before the subcommittee of 3M. The House has currently "adjourned debate" but will revisit this issue during their next session.

Several FMU faculty members and graduate students have been involved with the meetings in Columbia this spring.

Chi Lambda Update

The Chi Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) recently held their annual election for new officers and board members.

All positions are 2 year terms. Congratulations to the following:

President – Karen Gittings

Counselor – Susan Grubbs

Secretary – Tasha Broach

Board Member – Lynn Kennedy

Leadership Succession Committee Member – Miranda Shefton

The following are in office until 2016:

Tracy George (VP in charge of programs), Darlene Fulton (Treasurer), Deborah Hopla (Board Member), Vicki Martin (Chair of Leadership Succession Committee), and Sheryl Singleton (Leadership Succession Committee Member)

Assistant Professor Marty Hucks, six students from the School of Nursing at Francis Marion University, and one student of Public Health, from the University of South Carolina, has just return from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where they carried out a successful study abroad venture. The ten day program culminated with the presentation of an International Conferences titled "Nurses Preparing for Health Care Delivery in a Global Society", where the nursing students became international presenters by offering information on "The value of Study Abroad: The student Perspective. The conference was attended by American and Dominican Professional Nurses and Nursing Students. The information was well received and appreciated by all in attendance.

There were many who participated in making the experienced a reality. The group is pictured below with Licensed (RN) Ana Pimentel (center) Director of Centro De Gastroenterologia who shared information on the health care system of the Dominican Republic. The study abroad experience including the conference was sponsored by the International Nursing Education Consortium of Tallahassee Florida; a non-profit corporation owned and operated by Dr. Mildred Fennal, a retired nursing professor, who happens to be from Darlington, South Carolina.



Pictured Left to right Assistant Professor Marty Hucks, her daughter and Public Health Major from the University of South Carolina Shelly Hucks, Nursing Students Meredith Johnson, Nathan Saverance, Tyler Edgin, Lauren Brown, Katelon Smith and Chantal Grant, from Francis Marion University

Please send in any personal or professional news to rwittmannprice@fmarion.edu or tgeorge@fmarion.edu for September newsletter by August 15th! THANK YOU