

# Francis Marion University

## Department of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

FMU Nursing  
on the Move

May 2016

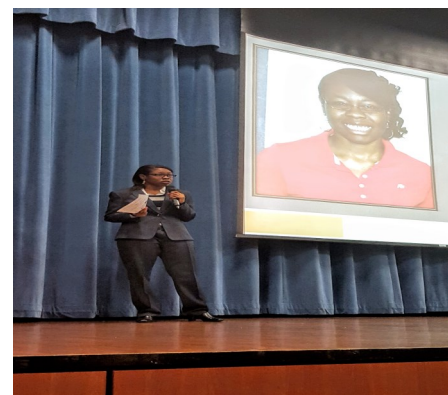
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### FMU Hosts Nursing Conference

On February 20, 2016, Francis Marion University Department of Nursing hosted a conference entitled, Caring for Patients with Developmental Disabilities. This conference was funded by a grant from the S.C. Developmental Disabilities Council. National nursing speakers included Dr. Kathleen Fisher and Dr. Marcia Gardner, as well as Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price. In addition, Ms. Glenda Hyman and Ms. Chaqueta Stuckey from the Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board provided an excellent presentation. The nursing students and nurses who attended this conference learned more about intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as how to provide appropriate nursing care.



### Alumni Update

On March 8, 2016, the FMU Alumni Group hosted a trunk show of spring clothing at LNB, and \$100 was earned toward the Alumni Scholarship.

Please tell us what types of alumni events you are interested in. Also, please let us know of any personal or professional milestones!



Condolences to Kris Lane, FMU MSN Student, on the loss of his wife, Krissi.

### Minority Nurses Association Update ~ by Dr. Rhonda Brodgon

The Minority Nurses Association had its first meeting February 2, 2016. Mrs. Jennifer Robinson, Director of Empowerment with the Pee Dee Coalition was the guest speaker. She presented on the topic of *Empowerment*. She presented on the significance of "meaningfulness" which encompasses motivation, purpose, spirituality and creativity. Mrs. Robinson talked about how having "competence" does not mean you know all the answers, but also how competence gives one the ability to do something efficiently. In addition, she emphasized how having "impact" gives one the chance to make the change in the world. The Minority Nurses Association's next meeting will be held April 19, 2016 in the Lee Nursing Building with a presentation from Dr. Jessica Burke about the effects of stress and mental health.

### STTI Educational Meeting

On April 7, 2016, Ms. Nancy Barnes was the speaker at the STTI spring educational meeting. She spoke on work-life balance and self-care. The next Educational Meeting will be in October 2016.



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**Good-bye and Good Luck to**  
**Ms. Lynn Kennedy!**

With mixed emotions the department of nursing (soon to be the program of nursing in the School of Health Sciences) is losing a long-term faculty member to retirement this spring.

We wish Ms. Lynn Kennedy all the fun she can manage in the future. She has served the nursing community in the Pee Dee region faithfully for years and will be missed.

On March 22, 2016, the FMU Alumni Group had their spring social at Rebel Pie in Florence. Mrs. Kennedy was the guest of honor, and alumni were able to visit with her.

**A Note from Ms. Kennedy:**

I would like to thank the Alumni Association for the Drop In. It was great to see former students and faculty. It meant a lot to be remembered in this way. It created another moment in my book and time as a faculty.

Ms. Kennedy



**The Carter Center for Health Sciences (CCHS)**

Well, it is finally happening! The Carter Center for Health Sciences (CCHS) on Irby and Evans streets will open this summer. President Carter has already completed a walk-through and within the next month faculty will check the place out. In July, Drs. Hopla, George, Douglas, and Muller will move their offices to the new location to join the PA faculty, Mr. Chip Hull and Ms. Julie Thomas.

Ms. Crystal Graham is in the process of establishing the region's first interprofessional simulation laboratory. Starting in the fall the building will be open to the public, and we are planning conferences to take place there already. So get ready to check it out!



**Senior BSN Students Attend Conference in Washington, D.C.**

Ariel Graham and Chrissy McKenzie, two seniors, represented the state of SC at the Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment (ANHE)'s Leadership and Advocacy Workshop held in Washington, DC from March 12th-14th. Nominated by Ms. Hucks, the students attended the all-expense-paid event to learn about nursing's role in environmental health, meet with legislators, and hone their leadership and advocacy skills.



**Amy V. Cockroft Leadership Development Program**

Dr. Karen Gittings and Dr. Deborah Hopla just complete the year-long Amy V. Cockroft Leadership Development Program in 2015-2016, and they presented their projects on March 26, 2016. Dr. Tracy George will complete this program in 2016-2017.

