

NURSE NEWS

Message from the Chair

Change Is the Only Constant: A New Journey Begins

The Jeanette M. Travis School of Nursing pinned the first BSN graduates in May of 2022 under the University of Tennessee Southern's banner. In my forty years as a nurse, the one thing I have always depended on is change, I can truly say change has been a constant in my career. Nurses are champions of change. The field in which nurses apply their knowledge and skills is constantly changing. Both faculty and staff have welcomed this change to the University of Tennessee System. The faculty and staff have been in lock step and have adapted quickly. Embracing change is what nurses do.

Florence Nightingale promoted changes in the care of the sick in her book *Notes on Nursing*, written in 1860. Many of the changes she promoted in homes, hospital wards, and sick rooms were related to cleanliness, air circulation, and diet. These changes sound simple today but in 1860 they were quite controversial and difficult to maintain. But persevere she did! Because of changes she made regarding sanitary conditions in her wards during the Crimean War in 1855, she was able to dramatically reduce the

death rate in the hospital in Scutari. Through meticulous record keeping and analysis of the data, she was able to use "evidence based care" to bring about change in the British field hospitals.

Nurses continue to be the champions of change whether they are at the bedside or in a classroom. Nurses adapt. We have proven this adaptability in teaching nursing students remotely as we were all plunged into changes with the pandemic. The UTS students were champions in both the classroom and the clinical setting caring for their patients while wearing the personal protective equipment. These students were instrumental in promoting, and administering, COVID-19 and flu vaccinations in the community and on the university campus.

Adapting to change was demonstrated by the May 2022 BSN graduating cohort when they have achieved 100% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate. I want to congratulate both the students and the faculty for this accomplishment. As we begin this new academic year of 2022- 2023, I am filled with anticipation to discover the opportunities for change to positively affect our community, state, country, and even the world.

Michelle Decker, DNP, RN



CLASS OF 2022 BSN GRADUATES



Dreams Do Come True

www.utsouthern.edu

Remember back to a time you dreamed of what you wanted to become when you were older... Remember when your dream came true and how happy you were??? We are delighted the 2022 BSN graduates are all now Registered Nurses and living their dream!



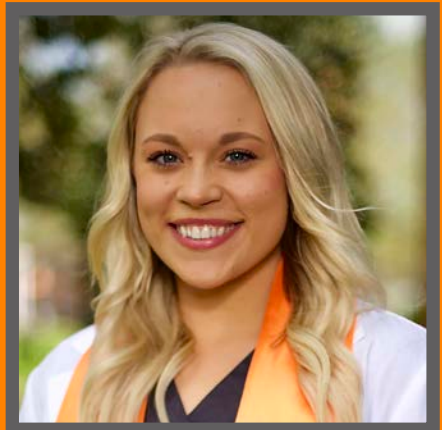
TORI BROWN, RN

Maury Regional Medical Center in the Cardiovascular Step Down Unit



EMILY BYROM, RN

STRHS-Winchester in the Medical Surgical Unit



ANNA GRAHAM, RN

Maury Regional Medical Center in the ICU Step Down Unit and STRHS-Lawrenceburg in the Medical Surgical Unit



PAIGE KLEINKE, RN

Maury Regional Medical Center in the Cardiovascular Step-Down Unit



TAYLOR LATHAM, RN

Maury Regional Medical Center in the Orthopedic/Surgical Unit



TAMIA NORTHCUTT, RN

Maury Regional Medical Center in the Cardiovascular Step-Down Unit



JOSEY WATERS, RN

Huntsville Hospital for Women and Children in the Pediatric Emergency Room



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the heads. In this case, the two senior citizen EchoMasks will expand student interactions and training experiences with a variety of patients by transforming two high fidelity, middle-age patient simulation mannequins into senior-age/geriatric patients, one, an African-American female and the second, a Caucasian male. The iPad pro mounts to the iPad stand for video capabilities used during the telehealth simulation and then will be used along with the keyboard to chart patient visit information and assessment findings. UTS currently utilizes software with electronic medical record capabilities compatible with the iPad technology. This innovative telehealth simulation will prepare BSN students as they learn and will have the capability to demonstrate best practices through a thorough understanding of the use of telehealth technology.

On July 27th, UTS was notified that the abstract "Using Enhanced Simulation to Address Healthcare Needs of a Geriatric, Rural, Medically-Underserved Population" was accepted for presentation at The Rural Health Association of Tennessee Conference. On November 16th, Dr. Gennifer Baker and Mr. Allen Stanton will be presenting on the topic of population statistics and rural healthcare challenges of Giles County, Tennessee and how The University of Tennessee Southern (UTS) Jeanette M. Travis School of Nursing is working to address these challenges through the implementation of telehealth nursing in the campus simulation lab setting.

Pictured is Dr. Gennifer Baker holding a picture of her parents, part of the inspiration for writing this grant.

Grant Awarded to Jeanette M. Travis School of Nursing & Health Sciences

University of Tennessee Alliance of Women's Philanthropists awarded a \$10,154 grant to start the initiative of using enhanced simulation to address healthcare needs of a geriatric, rural, medically-underserved population. Gennifer Baker, assistant professor and simulation/clinical coordinator is the principal investigator for the grant. The grant will focus on implementation of new technology that fosters best practices in telehealth nursing in the simulation lab setting. This grant provides for the purchase of two senior EchoMasks, two iPad pros coupled with a keyboard and rolling iPad stands. The EchoMasks work with current mannequins, fitting over





Simulation **Spotlight** Gennifer Baker, DNP, RN

The faculty, as well as the students, are happy to be back on campus in person! The rising seniors have been active in the lab this summer refreshing skills, adding additional skills, and applying these skills in hands on practice through simulation. This semester they have focused on the adult, medical/surgical patient through a variety of patient care scenarios. These sessions include preparing the patient for surgery, caring for a patient in cardiac arrest, and how to manage intravenous (IV) fluids with an IV pump. In the pictures you can see the

rising seniors in the simulation lab priming the IV tubing and programming the IV pump. The students are also prepared for situations when power for the pumps is not available by teaching them to count the number of drops that fall into the tubing in a minute (while watching the second hand on their watch); which converts to a flow rate to ensure the correct amount of the fluid or medication is received by the patient. Just ask them, it is not as easy as it looks!





Public Health Education Education Karen Ferguson, PhD, RN

The new Public Health Education major had 2 graduates in Spring of 2022, with a projection of 8 graduates in Spring of 2023. The graduates completed their capstone projects focusing on nutrition and mental health, and positive coping skills for survivors of domestic violence. Students in the nutrition course completed a project creating books for children in kindergarten - fifth grade at Elkton School. The books were written for children and

focused on healthy eating, food allergies, and how nutrition is important for everyone. Pictures, activities, and puzzles were included with the books. Dr. Judy Cheatham provided 5 copies of all the books along with boxes of crayons for the children. Faculty and students presented the books and crayons to a group of children at Elkton School.



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Clinic News

Randi McElhaney, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

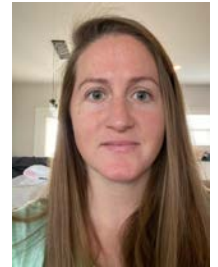
The clinic offers both primary care and acute care services to faculty, staff, and students for free. This includes sports physicals, COVID tests, strep tests, flu tests (when available), urinalysis, pregnancy tests, and more!

The clinic will continue to be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 4:00. We will still be operating by appointment only. If you need us, please call (931-424-7338) or email (utsclinic@utsouthern.edu)! Same day appointments are often available. We have hired two new family nurse practitioners, Jenny Gordon and Jen Adams, for the fall to accommodate our campus community needs!

We plan to offer COVID and flu vaccinations this fall for free while supplies last! Please watch your email for updates on the availability of these!



JENNY GORDON



JEN ADAMS

Public Invited to Participate in the Accreditation Review by the CCNE

The University of Tennessee Southern Jeanette M. Travis School of Nursing is hosting an on-site continued accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program on November 16, 17, & 18, 2022. The on-site review will take place on the campus of The University of Tennessee Southern (UTS) located at 433 West Madison Street, Pulaski, TN 38478; phone # 931-424-2019. The public is invited to submit written third-party comments concerning the program's qualifications for accreditation. Comments must be received by CCNE no later than 21 days prior (by October 26, 2022). to the on-site evaluation visit. If you would like to submit third-party comments, please submit to thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org or you mail comments to:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Attn: Third-Party Comments
655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001



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Pulaski, TN 38478