Friends, Alumni, Faculty and Staff,

Spring, 2015 was a very busy and productive semester at Sam. The School of Nursing grew by 23 more students to a total of 155, moved to a new location in Huntsville, started the RN to BSN program, and opened The Woodlands campus.

Our new location in the Citizen’s Bank building, offers many benefits, including great parking, large offices, a student study area, classrooms, two lab spaces, and a computer lab for testing (to be completed fall 2015).

The opening of our satellite campus, The Woodlands Center, in January is a huge accomplishment for us. Dr. Kelly Zinn is the Assistant Director and manages the day-to-day operations at this Center. We admitted 20 new BSN students to this campus as a part of cohort 8. We also started our new RN to BSN completion curriculum, with Dr. Denise Neill at the helm as Coordinator. The program is designed to allow RN’s with an Associate’s Degree or Diploma to complete their BSN degree. Because these students will be working as RNs while they obtain their degree, we are offering 80% of this program online. Students only have to come to class three times during the semester, once at the beginning, the middle and the end of the semester. Classes cater to the working nurse by holding classes on the same day of the week—Wednesdays. The program has 10 courses and can potentially be completed in 12 months (three semesters). We are trying to spread the word about our new program to RN’s in the area. Please help us get the word out!

The biggest accomplishment of all for spring, 2015 is that our 33 graduates obtained a 97% pass rate on their NCLEX! We are SO very proud of each of them, and of the faculty who worked so hard to get the students prepared for this challenging exam. Go KATS!!!!

The opening of our satellite campus, The Woodlands Center, in January is a huge accomplishment for us. Dr. Kelly Zinn is the Assistant Director and manages the day-to-day operations at this Center. We admitted 20 new BSN students to this campus as a part of cohort 8. We also started our new RN to BSN completion curriculum, with Dr. Denise Neill at the helm as Coordinator. The program is designed to allow RN’s with an Associate’s Degree or Diploma to complete their BSN degree. Because these students will be working as RNs while they obtain their degree, we are offering 80% of this program online. Students only have to come to class three times during the semester, once at the beginning, the middle and the end of the semester. Classes cater to the working nurse by holding classes on the same day of the week—Wednesdays. The program has 10 courses and can potentially be completed in 12 months (three semesters). We are trying to spread the word about our new program to RN’s in the area. Please help us get the word out!

Laboratories are very expensive to equip and maintain. As a part of our efforts to acquire additional manikins and supplies for The Woodlands Center, we wrote a grant to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase capacity for our simulation laboratory. In addition to obtaining needed equipment, we were also able to fund a two-day workshop for faculty and staff presented by Dr. Kim Leighton, a former president of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL). We are also conducting a research study to see if increasing the percentage of time students spend in the lab versus with “real patients” will have any effect on their knowledge, clinical competence, and critical thinking. A national randomized controlled study showed that students in the lab for 50% of their clinical hours actually increased their scores on these three qualities.

We are looking forward to the 2015-16 year as we add two more cohorts to The Woodlands- another 40 students- and continue to grow our RN to BSN program. We are also submitting a proposal to begin a master’s degree program for Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. When approved, the program will begin in January, 2017.

Anne Stiles, Ph.D, RN
Dean, College of Health Sciences
We were very excited with the opening of our Woodlands’ campus this spring, to meet the growing need for nurses. The new facility includes two skills laboratories and a simulation lab that incorporates the use of “state of the art” simulation technology.

Dr. Kelly Zinn is the Assistant Director of TWC and Dr. Denise Neill is the RN-BSN Coordinator. Judy Upshaw is the Director of Nursing Clinical Labs for both, the Huntsville campus and TWC.

The Woodlands Center (TWC) has two nursing programs:
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) - the traditional pre-licensure track will admit 20 students in the fall and in the spring each year.
- RN to BSN track for professionals who already have their RN license and wish to pursue a BSN degree.

The key to continued high quality nursing education includes establishing productive partnerships. This helps to create collaborative environments that enhance student learning to ensure safe, competent and professional nursing practice. We appreciate the relationships we have developed as we continue to strengthen our community partnerships. To date, we have over 85 affiliations which includes: hospitals, clinics, long term care, free-standing emergency rooms and urgent care, public schools, physician practices, mental health facilities, and others.

Our students have the opportunity for clinical experiences in urban as well as rural areas that include Huntsville, Conroe, The Woodlands, Spring, Kingwood, Trinity, Bryan/College Station, Crockett, Livingston, Madisonville, and Houston including the Texas Medical Center. Together we are forging productive partnerships for education and training to advance health. (For info related to clinical partnerships, please contact Christine Teel, BSN, RN, Clinical Coordinator at cteel@shsu.edu).

**Student Spotlight: Community and Campus Activities**

Academic Community Engagement (ACE) is a teaching method that combines community engagement with academic instruction. The ACE initiative allows students to use the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom to make a difference and to improve life in our community by understanding their roles as community members. The Student Nurses Association (SNA) is “an organization dedicated to fostering the professional development of nursing students.” It is available for student nurses to help individuals develop into well-rounded nurses. This past year, the SNA participated in community events such as Saturday at Sam, food drives, Bearkat All Paws In, clothing drive, the Special Olympics, school health fairs, Relay for Life, the Walker County Fair (first aid station), All PAWS In and other activities.

**Clinical and Community Partnerships**

Our graduate nurses are in high demand. Congratulations to our new graduates this past year! We continue to attract some of the best and brightest students for our nursing program. We are very proud that most of our recent graduates were offered nursing internships prior to graduation at the following hospitals: Memorial Hermann, MD Anderson, Texas Health Methodist, CHI St. Luke’s, St. Joseph’s/Houston, St. Joseph’s/Bryan, Seton/San Antonio, Conroe Regional, Texas Harris Methodist SW, Baylor, Dell Children’s Medical/Austin, Harris Health, Houston Northwest Medical Center, Tomball Regional and others. Many work in specialized roles in the ER, ICU, OR, Labor and Delivery, Transplant Services, and Neuroscience.

**Annual Community Baby Shower**

Our student nurses collected $700 in cash (GoFundMe account and a fundraiser at the yogurt shop) and also collected many baby items that were donated. Great work to the entire class who helped on the project and the project coordinators—Hillary Richter and Colton Gloff, and Dr. Shirley Wallace, SON faculty. Pictured with Hillary and Colton are Laura Soroh and Ariel Bond.
Study abroad experiences are important for nursing students because they enrich the students’ experience with different cultures, while enhancing their cultural awareness, and sensitivity.

In December, 2014, eight students and two faculty went to Thailand for three weeks. These students studied either community or adult health nursing. They experienced lectures by nursing faculty from Thailand, a public health physician, clinic and hospital nurses, a massage healer, and a local traditional healer. They toured many urban and rural hospitals, including a very small hospital in the northern mountains that catered only to the local hill tribes. We accompanied two public health nurses and a physical therapist on a rural home visit. We also learned about Thai massage, herbs, Buddhism, and other traditional healing methods.

We are currently planning a College of Health Sciences Research Conference to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica this September. Nursing will be responsible for four podium talks and two student poster presentations. Dr. Denise Neill and Dr. Anne Stiles will be presenting the podium talks, and our students, Mr. Cody Williamson, Ms. Paloma Garcia Duran, and Ms. Kelly Davis will be presenting their posters. The students were selected after writing an essay and participating in an interview. Congratulations to all these students! We are also planning to go to Costa Rica and Thailand in 2016 with more students. Be watching for more information on our website as our plans progress.

**Faculty Scholarship Excellence**

Our PhD tenure tract faculty have been very busy this past year with scholarly work and we are so proud of them.

- Dr. Marianne Moore recently was a poster presenter at the American College of Nurse-Midwives conference in Washington, DC. and will be podium presenter at the STTI Conference in Las Vegas (Nov). Presentation is titled, “How African-American Nulliparous Women Construct Birth.”

- Dr. Lilibeth Al-Kofahy presented at the International Scientific Forum in Amman, Jordan (April 2015). The title of her research presentation was “Post-Traumatic Stress Depression and Health Perspective: Victims of Motor Vehicle Accidents in Jordan.”

- Dr. Denise Neill has received approval for her instrument development article to be published in the prestigious *Journal of Nursing Measurement*. She will also present her research at the STTI conference titled, “An Organizational Approach to Adoption of Technology to Enhance a Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Culture.”

- Dr. Kelly Zinn and Dr. Denise Neill were awarded $5000 each for their Faculty Research Grants.

**NEW FACULTY & STAFF**

### Fulltime Faculty:
- Laura Montgomery, MSN, FNP, RN
- Diane Langton, DNP, RN
- Jamie Kastler, MSN, RN
- Zohreh Scheussler, MSN, RN
- E’loria Simon-Campbell, PhD, MSN, RN
- Susan McCormick, PhD, MSN, RN

### Clinical Adjunct Faculty:
- Angel Cunningham, MSN, RN
- Katie Deshotels, MSN, RN
- Rhonda Gatti, MSN, RN
- Pam Stanford, MSN, RN
- Jere Hammer, MSN, RN
- Donna Stewart, DNP(c) MSN, RN

### Staff
- Donna Murray
  - Administrative Associate, Huntsville Campus

---

**White Coat Ceremony for New Nursing Students**

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) selected 100 schools of nursing to receive funding support to pilot White Coat Ceremonies, much like the ones that are done for medical students.

The ceremony is designed to instill a commitment to providing compassionate, humanitarian, and patient-centered care among incoming nursing students. The white coat ceremony consists of the recitation of an oath, robing of students in a white lab coat, an address by a distinguished role model and a reception for students and invited guests. Students also received a specially designed pin that serves as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to providing high quality care. Pictured is Cohort 8 with Dr Stiles and Dean Lacourse.
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

On December 18th, the Zeta Pi/UTHSC chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing, held the 2014 Fall Induction celebrating 151 new members, including 7 undergraduate members from Sam Houston State University, School of Nursing who are also the first SHSU students to be inducted into this very prestigious organization.

Congratulations to May 2015 graduates: Catherine Bilden, Mallory Braley, Veronica Castillo, Ariana Gutierrez, Nikki Story, Hope Walker and Tommy Watson (Watson graduated Summa Cum Laude). STTI membership is by invitation only to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing. A special thank you from the honorees to the faculty who are members of STTI for their letters of recommendations and especially to Dr. Marianne Moore who lead this effort.

New Graduate Nurse Pinning Ceremony

The pinning ceremony for nursing is a very special event for student nurses just before graduation. It includes the lighting of the lamp.

During the Crimean War in the mid-1880s, Florence Nightingale became known as the “lady with the lamp.” She carried a lamp with her during her night, rounds, checking on her patients.

The lamps represent the “passing of the flame” from Florence Nightingale to the graduate nurse, symbolizing knowledge.

Four students per graduating cohort were honored during the ceremony with awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Dr. David Payne Leadership Award
Kevin Matthews, Cohort 4
Katy Spence, Cohort 5

SON Clinical Excellence Award
Allison Kelly, Cohort 4
Hope Walker, Cohort 5

Mary Ellen Ragudale Community Service Award
Megan Shaw, Cohort 4

Florence Nightingale Art of Nursing Award
Staci Prelli, Cohort 4
Destiny Herridge, Cohort 5

School of Nursing Alumni We want to hear from you!

Please send us your news, announcements, job opportunities, promotions, and accolades and your latest contact information so that we may keep you informed. Please send correspondence for the SON newsletter to Forstine Morris, MSN, RN-BC, NE-BC email: fbm003@shsu.edu.

To stay up to date on all Alumni news and events, see shsu.edu/alumni.