The Mississippi Nurses Association is the voice of registered nurses in Mississippi and provides leadership to improve the health of all people.

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Nurses Receive Honors at ‘08 Nightingale Gala

A record turnout attended the fourth annual Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's 2008 Nightingale Awards Gala on Feb. 4, in the Marriott Hotel Downtown, Jackson. The annual Nightingale Awards is the “academy award” honoring exceptional service in the nursing and healthcare industry across Mississippi.

Syndicated political columnist and The Clarion Ledger Perspective Editor Sid Saller was emcee of the fourth annual black-tie event that recorded more than 600 in attendance.

“The Nightingale Awards distinguish those men, women and organizations that have made a special effort to excel in the area of healthcare,” said Ricki Garrett, executive director of the Mississippi Nurses Association, co-host of the event. “This year more than 70 nurses, nurse educators, administrators and healthcare facilities were nominated for statewide honors.”

The MNA Hall of Fame award recognizes a nurse’s life-long commitment to the profession of nursing and their commitment to the betterment of health care in Mississippi, and is a career-culminating award,” said MNA President Pam Farris. “Each one of them has contributed to the betterment of health care in Mississippi, and is a credit to the nursing profession.”

One of the highlights of the annual Nightingale Awards is the announcement of new members of the Mississippi Nurses Association Hall of Fame. Each year, MNA is allowed to induct up to three members into its Hall of Fame. “We have five excellent nurses who have been nominated for this career-culminating award,” said MNA President Pam Farris. “Each one of them has contributed to the betterment of health care in Mississippi, and is a credit to the nursing profession.”

Nominees for the MNA 2008 Hall of Fame Award were Laverne Barnes, retired from Mississippi Baptist Health Systems; Willetta Cahill, retired from the Mississippi Department of Health; Mary Pat Curtis, retired, Mississippi University for Women School of Nursing; Mary Sprayberry, retired school nurse; Mary E. Stainton, retired, Deaconess HomeCare; Minta Uzodimma, retired from the Mississippi Department of Health; and, Jeannette the fourth annual black-tie event that recorded more than 600 in attendance.

“The five nominees this year are each deserving of the honor of induction into the Hall of Fame. I know it was a difficult decision to make. New inductees are Mary Pat Curtis, Mary Sprayberry and Mary Stainton,” Farris said.

A quote from Mary Pat Curtis' nomination packet read, "Dr. Curtis has worked tirelessly and successfully for nursing in the state and in the nation. She was a master teacher for 25 years at Mississippi University for Women in the classroom and clinical arenas. She always went the extra mile with her students and compassionately worked with them. She was..."
The past year has been one of growth and change for the Mississippi Nurses Association. Although change is not always easy, it is a necessity in today’s fast paced world. In order to move ahead with new initiatives and to keep ahead of changing technology, a changing workforce, and greater demands on our association, it is important to have an organization and a staff that can meet those demands.

As you know, Charlotte Cockrell, the long time executive director of our foundation is moving to Wilmington, North Carolina with her husband, and Kay Wise, the long time events planner for MNA has gone to work for another association. However, we are very fortunate to have Angela Weathersby as our new events and continuing education coordinator, and a search will begin soon for a new executive director of the foundation.

This is an extremely busy time for our association with back to back events in the early part of the year. The Statewide Nursing Summit, held on January 29 boasted an attendance of 1,400 nurses and nursing students and 56 exhibitors. The Summit is an excellent way to make nurses and students aware of the importance of being involved politically and exercising the clout that almost 46,000 nurses can have. It is also a wonderful opportunity for our state legislators and other leaders to hear about the issues that nurses care about.

The Nightingale Awards on February 4 highlighted the incredible work and outstanding accomplishments of our state nurses and those who support them. We want to thank our many sponsors and participants for helping to make this event the success it has been for the past three years. Rarely do nurses celebrate their own accomplishments and the many contributions they make to the health of our citizens. This event is a way for us to recognize colleagues and for others in our state to recognize nurses.

We hope that you are enjoying new communications from the Mississippi Nurses Association. Blast e-mails are going out to our members who have provided their e-mail address to us with current information, notices of meetings, highlights of events and other information. Please send us your e-mail address if we don’t already have it, so that you don’t miss the up to date news from your association.

We have an ambitious agenda for this year’s legislative session. In collaboration with the Mississippi Hospital Association, the Office of Nursing Workforce, the Deans and Director’s Council, the Mississippi Healthcare Association and our Faculty Shortage Task Force, we are pursuing a number of legislative goals. They include:

- Funding for one additional faculty member at each school of nursing that wants to expand and has the capability of expanding
- Planning funds to develop a statewide plan to provide regional simulation labs for training at the schools of nursing and hospitals in the state
- Funding for the dual enrollment high school/ community college LPN program that provides students with the opportunity to complete high school with the preparation needed to become a certified LPN
- Funding to increase the number of school nurses and to remove the cap that limits the number of school nurses who can receive the additional pay for national certification
- Support for the tobacco tax

I hope all nurses will get to know their legislative leaders and express support for the initiatives that the Mississippi Nurses Association and our partners are advocating for. Please support us, too, by joining your professional association and being a part of making nursing even better.
I am sure that many people became a nurse for the same reasons I did, to help people and make a difference in others lives. As I entered the nursing profession I was lucky enough to have an employer that supported being involved in the nursing profession. This was when I joined MNA. This involvement taught me that I could help more people and make a bigger difference on not only patients and the care they receive but on my profession and how it is governed and who makes decisions that affect us all.

I learned early in my nursing career the important role that MNA plays in the health care of our patients and the progression of the nursing profession.

Over these years I have watched MNA and their leaders stay involved and up-to-date in all things that affect nurses and advance practice nurses. The important role that they play made me want to stay involved. I was lucky enough to be able to do this, but some of the nurses of our state can not do this. This is why you have elected nurses to speak on your behalf.

Mississippi Board of Nursing Announces New Director

The Mississippi Board of Nursing is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Melinda E. Rush, DSN, FNP, as Executive Director effective Jan. 1.

Dr. Rush received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and a Doctorate of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Rush served as Professor and Director of the School of Nursing’s Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Delta State University in Cleveland. She was previously Professor in the Graduate Nursing Program and former Director of the Campus Health Center at Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Rush has also practiced for the past twelve years as a nurse practitioner at Mississippi State University’s Longest Student Health Center. She was co-founder and health care provider for Marks Kids Clinic at the Mark Mitchell Shelter for Children in Columbus and also co-founder of Sally Kate’s Kids Clinic in West Point, Mississippi. Dr. Rush’s early years in nursing were in home health with the Mississippi State Department of Health and in multiple nursing positions with the Oktibbeha County Hospital in Starkville, Mississippi.

Dr. Rush is active in many professional organizations including the Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing, Mississippi Nurses Association, Mississippi Nurses Foundation, American Nurses Association, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Alabama Academy of Science, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty, Sigma Theta Tau - Zeta Rho and PI Xi Chapters.

Dr. Rush has received honors and awards from various organizations. She was a nominee for the 2002 Mississippi Nurses Association’s Nurse of the Year. In August 2004, Dr. Rush was invited to present at the Oxford Roundtable on Women’s Leadership at Oxford University. Her presentation was on local, national and global disparities in health care for women. Dr. Rush was named the 2005 Mississippi Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

This Mississippi Nurses Association is looking for you. If you are not a member, what are you waiting for? Benefits of membership include: input on legislative matters related to nursing and healthcare, training and education opportunities, and networking with nurses from all over the state. So really what are you waiting for? Join MNA today!

Carl Mangum
Vice-President
MNA

Get Involved in Nursing, Become a Member of MNA

But, MNA can only do so much without your membership. There are 36,000 RNs in our state and only 1,900 belong to MNA. We fight on continual bases to keep others out of our nursing practice and to make sure our profession is protected at all costs. We must have a voice and MNA is nursing’s voice in our state. MNA maintains a full-time lobbyist that overseas all bills that come before the house and senate and we determine each bills impact on nursing and patient care.

Being a member of MNA allows you to get involved as little or as much as you desire, you also become one of many that works at making the best of nursing and making it all that it can be. Those of you who have been nurses for a while, Think about joining MNA and getting active. You will wonder why you waited so long. Those nurses that are newer at nursing please join and show us the new “next generation” way to do things. We need you!

As I have said before, please call me at 601-757-9635 if you would like to talk about MNA and the important work we are doing on nursing’s behalf.
Nurses Gather at Annual Summit to Review 2008 Legislative Agenda

More than 1,400 student nurses, registered nurses and other healthcare professionals gathered Jan. 29 at the Mississippi Trade Mart Center in Jackson for the annual Nursing Summit. The summit is presented by the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) and The Council on Health Affairs.

State officials and legislators met with nurses and students. The Summit brought in more than 55 exhibitors.

"The Nursing Summit, started in 1993 and supported by all nursing organizations in Mississippi, is held annually to discuss upcoming legislative issues that place Registered Nurses in a pivotal role as players in shaping the agenda involving health care in the state," said Mississippi Nurses Association Executive Director Ricki Garrett.

The summit is supported by a growing list of participants in the state's Council on Health Affairs. This list is testimony to the fact that in Mississippi the nursing community works together for the betterment of nursing.

Garrett said that in many states, collaboration does not happen and Mississippi is very fortunate here to having nursing leaders who work together. "That collaboration among nursing and across health care in our state has produced some remarkable results and will, hopefully, move nursing ahead even more," Garrett said. "As a result of the work of the Faculty Shortage Task Force, we have been able to successfully lobby for a $12,000 pay raise for all nursing faculty in the state. That pay raise is bringing the Mississippi Nursing community national recognition and numerous requests for information on the task force and the pay raise. We are getting calls from New Jersey, Texas, Alabama, Georgia and many other states asking for advice on how to build a coalition and seek a faculty pay raise."

The work of the Faculty Shortage Task Force is continuing. "The task force, with the facilitation of Dr. Kim Hoover, is moving forward with new initiatives for the current legislative session," Garrett said. "The initiatives include funding for an additional faculty member at each school of nursing in the state that has the capacity and the desire to increase enrollment; $75,000 in planning funds to put together a statewide plan for providing simulation labs around the state; additional funding to increase the number of school nurses along with raising the cap for their national certification; and expanding the LPN Dual Enrollment program."

Speakers for the 2008 Nursing Summit were Dennis S. O'Leary, M.D., president of Washington, D.C.-based The Joint Commission, the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care; Former State Attorney General Mike Moore who now chairs the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi and Matt Myers, president and CEO of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and Scott Cantrell, speaker, consultant and founder of Real World Magic.

Members of the Mississippi Nurses Association and the Council on Health Affairs

- American College of Nurse Midwives
- Association of Operating Room Nurses
- Association of Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses
- Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Mississippi Association of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nurses
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Magnolia Chapter—AACN
- Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Mississippi Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- Mississippi Association of Practical Nurses Educators
- Mississippi Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
- Mississippi Association of Student Nurses
- Mississippi Board of Nursing
- Mississippi Chapter for Nurses in AIDS Care
- Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing
- Mississippi Hospital Association Organization of Nurse Executives
- Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Health Care Educators
- Mississippi Licensed Practical Nurses Association
- Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce
- Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
- Mississippi Society of Peri Anesthesia Nurses
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Mississippi Public Health Association—Nursing Section
- Mississippi School Nurses Association

President and CEO of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Matt Myers, left, talks with Summit attendees following his joint presentation with former State Attorney General Mike Moore who now chairs the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi.
Mississippi University for Women’s Tammy McCoy speaks with two students about futures in nursing.

Jay Walton from Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins hosted one of the most popular exhibits during the 2008 Nursing Summit held Jan. 29 at the Mississippi Trade Mart.

Marie Johnson, left, RN Nurse Manager at St. Dominic Memorial Hospital meets and greets one of the more than 1,400 nurses and nursing students that attended at the 2008 Nursing Summit in Jackson.

Recruiter Hemingway of the United States U.S. Army visits with a student nurse investigating the opportunities in the military at the 2008 Nursing Summit Jan. 29.

**MNA and the State Council on Health Affairs Thank the 2008 Summit Exhibitors**

Many thanks to Nancy Habler and Beverly Heiney of Golden Living for their sponsorship of the break.

Delmar, Cengage Learning
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University of Mississippi Healthcare/Office of Nurse Recruitment
University of Mississippi Medical Center
School of Nursing
USM School of Nursing
Wexford Health Sources, Inc.
William Carey University
Taskforce members, from left, Barbara Hicks from the Office of Customer Operations, Mississippi Department of Employment Security; Yvonne Russell, Quality Improvement Nurse for Choice Services; and Martha Catlett, Director of Nursing Education, Institutions of Higher Learning are part of the on-going taskforce.

The Southern Regional Education Board’s April report from the Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing’s 2007 report, The Economic Benefits of Addressing the Nursing Shortage, identified an economic incentive for states in resolving the nationwide nursing shortage in one simple sentence: More registered nurses mean more revenue.

The Council’s monitoring of student enrollment and the characteristics of faculty in colleges and universities since 2001 also identified one of the first steps in reaching a resolution: the nursing shortage cannot be addressed without first addressing the nursing faculty shortage.

“The states won’t get more nurses and the revenue they bring, without providing for more nursing faculty and facilities,” said Ricki Garrett, Mississippi Nurses Association Executive Director.

Members of the Taskforce on Nursing Faculty Shortage updated their strategic plan for the 2008 legislative session in a meeting Dec. 12 at The Mississippi Center for Nursing in Madison.

Representatives from nursing programs, schools, and the health care industry discussed possible processes in making further progress in resolving the state’s nursing shortage. Mississippi has taken a leadership role in addressing the nursing faculty shortage with the implementation of a $12,000 pay raise for faculty over the past two years. “The salary increase has contributed to the state’s ability to be competitive in retaining and recruiting faculty,” said Garrett.

In 2006, Business Week reported that the primary engine fueling the U.S. economy is health care—not information technology, energy or other industries, including real estate. “I have often thought that the economic impact that nursing makes in this state is drastically overlooked,” Garrett said. “State leaders who want to develop a better economic base would be well-served to focus on the positive results of resolving this particular labor shortage.”

Taskforce strategies over the next 12 months will include development of a Web site to be used as a marketing, education and service tool for nurse educators; continuation of incentive packages to retain and recruit faculty; pursue public and private partnerships to publicize and fund specific initiatives; and to continue development of a close relationship with state leaders.

Dr. Kim Hoover, left, associate dean, School of Nursing, University of Mississippi Medical Center facilitates discussion among members of the Taskforce on Nursing Faculty Shortage Dec. 12 at The Mississippi Center for Nursing in Madison. Taskforce members have been instrumental in developing a plan of action in the fight to resolve of the shortage of nursing faculty in the state. Over the last two years, Mississippi has increased nursing faculty salaries by $12,000.
a visionary nursing leader and was greatly respected by both faculty and students.

A quote from Mary Sprayberry’s nomination packet said, “As the first school nurse in the Nettleton Consolidated School System, Mary paved the way for improved health care for the students of Lee and Monroe counties. Not accustomed to having a nurse, teachers and school administrator learned to trust and respect her judgment. Her caring attitude has allowed her the opportunity to impact the lives of children and families in her community.”

A quote from Mary Stainton’s nomination packet read, “There were no nursing models for home care in 1970. Mary combined her nursing and business knowledge to move a fledgling home health agency to one that today covers a 36 county area in Mississippi. She has individually influenced prime issues of the home health care industry and the expansion of the nursing profession.”

MNA Hall of Fame Gains Three New Members
(continued from page 1)

ANNOUNCEMENT:

What is the strength of the Mississippi Nurses Association? Simply it is the members. I would like to challenge all members to recruit one new member between now and the convention in October. I want to be able to report that our membership that we have increased members by a minimum of 50%. MNA in counting on you, you are the best recruiter we have. Find a nurse that you know or work with and give them an application for membership and explain the benefits of being a member of MNA and help them through the process. YOU are MNA.

Carl Mangum
Vice-President
Mississippi Nurses Association
Nurse Rookie of the Year

Clint Kriel of the Mississippi Nurses Association District 13, left, and Jean Walker, right, representing the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing Faculty presented Jennifer Brooke Edwards, center, of the University of Mississippi Health Care, the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for Nurse Rookie of the Year. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse Researcher of the Year

Baptist Health Systems' Bobbie Ware, left, chief nursing officer and chief of Patient Services and Brenda Castleberry, right, director of the Education Resource Center, right, presented the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for Nurse Researcher of the Year to Sanjosa Martin of the Baptist Health System. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse Mentor of the Year

Jesse Smith, left, president of Jones County Junior College and Donna Scoggin, center, chair, of JCJC's Association Degree Nursing Program presented Paul Brown, right, of North Mississippi Medical Center the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for Nurse Mentor of the Year. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

School of Nursing Administrator of the Year

Marcella McKay, left, vice president of Nursing at the Mississippi Hospital Association and Wanda Jones, right, director of the Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce, presented Kaye Bender, center, dean of the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing, the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for the School of Nursing Administrator of the Year. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse Educators of the Year

Judy Baker of Jones County Junior College also won the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for Nurse Educators of the Year. North Mississippi Medical Center's President Chuck Stokes, left and NMMC's Chief Nursing Officer Laura Brower, right, presented the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's award for Nurse Educators of the Year to Rebecca Tustain of the Hinds Community College. Also receiving the award but not pictured was Judy Baker of Jones County Junior College. The awards were made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.
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MNA Nightingale Awards

School of Nursing of the Year
Merlene Myrick, left, and Cheri Walker, right, both of King’s Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven, presented the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s award for School of Nursing of the Year to Northeast Mississippi Community College. Rebecca West and Sherry Shadburn, both of the NEMCC nursing division accept the award on behalf of the school. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse Employer of the Year
Mississippi Nurses Association District 13’s Clint Kreeel, right, presented the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s award for Nurse Employer of the Year to Deaconess HomeCare. Penny Lovitt, center, and Grace Flynt, left, accepted the award on behalf of the agency. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse Employer of the Year
Steve Waggener, left, of Acme Printing in Ridgeland and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College President Willis Lott, right, presented Karen George, center, of North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo, with the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s award for Nursing Administrator of the Year. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Hospital of the Year (Less than 100 Beds)
Kay Bender, far left, dean of the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing and Mike Adcock, far right, administrator of University of Mississippi Health Care presented the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s award for Hospital of the Year (less than 100 beds) to Baptist Memorial Hospital, Union County. Hospital staff Linda Meeks, Lisa Bailey, Greta Carter and Debra Taylor accepted on behalf of the hospital. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Hospital of the Year (100 Beds or more)
Emory Oxford, right, owner of Prime Care Nurse Staffing in Jackson presented the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s award for Hospital of the Year (100 beds or more) to University of Mississippi Health Care. UMHC’s CEO William Ferniany, right, accepts the award on behalf of the hospital. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year
Libby Mahaffey, left, of Hinds Community College and Penny Lovitt, right, of Deaconess HomeCare in Hattiesburg presented Leigh-Ann Scoggins, center, of North Mississippi Medical Center with the Mississippi Nurses Association’s and Foundation’s Clinical Practice Nurse of the Year award. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

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MNA Thanks the 2008 Nightingale Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors
Central Mississippi Medical Center
The Clarion Ledger
North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo
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Mississippi Hospital Association
Mississippi Nurses Association District 13
MUW Foundation
Prime Care Nursing
St. Dominic Jackson Memorial Hospital
University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing Faculty

MNA Nightingale Awards
(continued from page 9)

Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year
Jack Page, left, of the law offices of Brunini, Grantham, Grower and Hewes and Shelia Adams, right, director of the Mississippi university for Women School of Nursing presented Lisa Marie Byrd, center, of Byrd Healthcare LLC and the Bolton Family Clinic the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year award. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Community Service of the Year
St. Dominic Memorial Hospital's Nurse Manager Lorna Owchar, left, and Harold Plunkett, right, vice president of Itawamba Community College presented Debyrnda Davey, center, of the University of Mississippi Medical Center with the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's Community Service Nurse of the Year award. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.

Nurse of the Year
The Clarion Ledger's Community Editor Leilani Salter, left, presented the Mississippi Nurses Association's and Foundation's 2008 Nurse of the Year award to Pamela Gail Hodges, left, of North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo. The award was made Feb. 4 at the fourth annual Nightingale Awards Gala held in Jackson.
The Mississippi Association of Student Nurses has announced the leadership for 2007-2008. Clockwise from left, Mississippi Nurses Association Advisor Lindy Sill of Mississippi College, MASN Consultant, Jenny Ozborn of Mississippi College and MASN President Jarred Gregg of Mississippi College.

The Mississippi Association of Student Nurses has elected their 2007-2008 slate of officers. Mississippi College student Jarred Gregg of Brandon will follow Claire Durst as president of the association which represents the 21 programs and school of nursing across of the state.

Other officers include: Andrew Hendrix, Mississippi University for Women, first vice president; David Dees, The University of Southern Mississippi, second vice president; DeAna Morrow, East Central Community College, secretary; Conner Reynolds, MUW, treasurer; Gillian Poole of East Central Community College, director of legislation; Andy Parker, University of Mississippi Medical Center, director at large, Karen Childs, Hinds Community College, director of Pulse Point; Leslie Tyner, Jones County Junior College, director of BTN; Courtney Truax, Mississippi University for Women, chair of fund raising; Erin Williams, Mississippi University for Women, BSN representative; Chuck Fisackerly, Holmes Community College, Associate Degree Nursing South Representative; Dana Appleton (Hinds Community College), Chairperson of School Presidents Amy Russell (Jones County Junior College), Chairperson of Nominations and Elections Committee Abby Yates (East Central Community College), Director of Internet Communications Traci Wilson (East Central Community College), and MASN Consultant and past 2nd Vice President Jenny Ozborn (Mississippi College Class of December 2007).

The purpose of MASN is to assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality health care. It also serves to provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns. Another purpose of MASN is to aid in the development of the whole person, his/her professional role, and his/her responsibility for the health care of people in all walks of life.

The function of MASN includes having direct input into standards of nursing education and influencing the education process. Other functions are to influence health care, nursing education and practice through legislative activities as appropriate and to promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities towards improved health care and the resolution of related social issues. MASN also represents nursing students to the consumer, to institutions and other organizations, and promotes and encourages students’ participation in interdisciplinary activities. It also promotes and encourages recruitment efforts, participation in student activities, educational opportunities, and spirituality, regardless of person’s race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, life style, disability, or

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Mississippi Association of Student Nurses... (continued from page 11)

economic status. MASN also functions to promote and encourage collaborative relationships with the American Nurses’ Association, the National League for Nursing, the International Council of Nurses, as well as the other nursing and related health organizations.

The benefits of being a member of MASN are free workshops, opportunities to network with nursing students and professional nurses. Students in MASN are also members of NSNA which offers benefits to earn academic credit for leadership, affordable health and accident insurance for nursing students, spouses and dependents. Nursing students also are eligible to receive reduced rates for professional liability insurance and discounts for nursing journal subscriptions and nursing apparel. Study tools and software are also offered at a reduced rate along with discounts from Barnes & Noble.com and other select publications. Students could also benefit from credit card and line of credit programs. Other benefits include special rates to join select professional nursing organizations and Imprint magazine and reduced rates for NSNA meetings.

It is refreshing to see nursing students that have not only a passion for nursing, but also a desire to lead and serve fellow nursing students. I am sure many of our nurse leaders in the state of Mississippi were active in a school student nurses association, the Board of Directors of MASN or even Board of Directors of the National Student Nurses Association. MNA works closely with MASN to provide mentoring to officers and student nurses throughout the state. MNA members often volunteer to speak to the nursing students throughout our state. This demonstrates to students the commitment of MNA to support all levels of nursing, beginning, with nursing students. This investment will yield endless results as nursing students are the growing workforce of Mississippi nurses. Each year they become our peers as they graduate and pass NCLEX. This mentorship leads to committed members of MNA after graduation.

The MASN and the Board of Directors work hard throughout the year to serve all nursing students in the state. The students plan an annual convention which is held in conjunction with the MNA. They also attend national midyear convention and represent Mississippi at the annual NSNA convention, to be held this March in Grapevine, Texas. For the second year, MASN is sponsoring a free workshop to promote success in nursing school and nursing careers. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 16 from 8am-3pm at the Jackson Medical Mall. The morning sessions feature MNA President Pam Farris, Dr. Mary Ann Henriques, RN, Assistant Professor from Mississippi College, LaNelle Weems, RN from the MONW, and Betsy Reeves from Central Mississippi Red Cross. The afternoon will showcase nurses from specialty areas of nursing talking with nursing students one on one.

As we each look back at our individual accomplishments, I challenge each MNA member to mentor a student nurse. Student nurses will bring back fond memories from nursing school and the excitement and anxiety of being a new nurse. They will also make you feel the energy of your youth and challenge you to renew your commitment to nursing. You will also be touching the future of nursing in MS as these nursing students will soon be our leadership in MNA. Wouldn't it be nice to say you were the influence in the direction of nursing in MS?

If you would like to learn more about MASN, the website is www.masn.org. It is hosted by After College and is used by thousands of student nurses. Through this Website students are also connected to job opportunities which can be posted for student nurses and nursing positions.

I hope you can feel my excitement from having the opportunity through MNA to work with such a wonderful group of student nurses and influence the future leadership of MNA. If you would like to get more involved with MASN through sponsorship, mentoring or volunteering to speak, please contact a member of the Board of Directors through the MASN website. You will not regret your investment.
Angela Weathersby Joins MNA as Staffer

Angela Weathersby has joined the Mississippi Nurses Association staff as Events and Continuing Education Coordinator with a background in Business Administration with over 20 years of experience. She has worked in the legal field for the past 10 years in the areas of office management, marketing and as a paralegal. Prior to that, she was employed at Baptist Health Systems where she served as Operations Coordinator for the Fitness Center.

Angela received her Associates Degree in Business Administration from Copiah-Lincoln in Wesson, Miss., and is now actively seeking to complete her B.S. degree in Business Management and Hospitality from the University of Phoenix.

Angela is very active in her church and community. She is an accomplished pianist and vocalist and serves as musician for her church as well as two others in the Jackson community. Angela is married with children and resides in Madison, Miss.

Mann ‘Officially’ Named ECCC Dean of Healthcare Education

After serving the past few months as interim dean of healthcare education at East Central Community College in Decatur, Betsy L. Mann has officially been named to the post, announced Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, ECCC president.

Dr. Sutphin, whose recommendation of Mann for the position was approved at the December meeting of the College’s Board of Trustees, said her experience in the healthcare area as a practitioner and as an educator “will serve the College well.”

“During her semester as Interim Dean, she handled herself with dignity and determination to ensure that the College’s healthcare programs operate in a professional manner to serve the needs of our students,” said Dr. Sutphin. “She is fully cognizant of the needs and opportunities of the College’s healthcare programs and is committed to the growth of the programs to meet the growing demand for healthcare workers.”

As healthcare dean, Mann, who has been a member of the College’s associate degree nursing faculty since 2002, is responsible for all of ECCC’s health-related programs, which in addition to the ADN program includes practical nursing, surgical technology, emergency medical technology and healthcare assistant program.

“I appreciate being trusted with the opportunity to grow and improve Healthcare Education Division at East Central,” Mann said. “We have the potential to do progressive things that are needed in this area and we have a team of instructors committed to excellence. I look forward to the challenge.”

Mann is involved in several professional nursing associations and currently serves as the College’s ambassador to the National League of Nursing. She is also District 15 immediate past president of the Mississippi Nurses’ Association.

In addition, she holds membership in the American Nurses’ Association, the National Organization of Associate Degree Nursing, the Mississippi Organization of Associate Degree Nursing, and Theta Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Mann is also a Certified Nurse Educator through the National League for Nursing.

A graduate of Neshoba Central High School, Mann holds an associate's degree in nursing from Meridian Community College and received bachelor and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

She is married to Dr. John Mann and they reside in Madison, Miss.

Voted Entrepreneur of the Year! K.C. Arnold Receives National Honor

Note: K.C. Arnold, nurse practitioner and owner of The Diabetes Center, PLLC of Ocean Springs has won the 2007 Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur of the Year award from ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners. This awards program recognizes outstanding achievements by NPs who have established their own businesses. The following is a letter of congratulations from Michelle Perron Pronsati, Editor, ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners.

A Heartfelt Salute

Our editorial team, publisher and judging panel are proud to announce that K.C. Arnold, NP, owner of The Diabetes Center in Ocean Springs, Miss., is the 2007 Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur of the Year.

We told you about Arnold in our December 2006 issue, when our judges awarded her an honorable mention in ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners’ first Entrepreneur of the Year competition. At that time, Arnold had been a practice owner for merely 15 months. Now she’s two years out, and her business is on solid financial footing. Our judging panel found her application both admirable and fiscally sound.

Arnold’s rapid rise to recognition is no surprise given how her practice got started—from the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf of Mexico coastline in Ocean Springs, Miss. I had a chance to meet and talk with Arnold at the American College of Nurse Practitioners clinical conference in San Antonio in late October, where she inspired current and hopeful entrepreneurs by giving a presentation about her business.

At the time, the fact that Arnold had won this honor was a secret we had shared only with her and the photographer we dispatched to Mississippi. As you would expect, it was clear from her excited delivery that winning awards is not why she gets up and heads to the clinic every day (and then back again at night to do billing and other paperwork.)

Given that Arnold created her practice in three weeks, she advised the audience “not to try this at home.” But the truth is that everything this nurse practitioner did when she constructed her practice was thoughtful, financially responsible and in the best interests of her patients. That’s a formula for success, no matter how rapidly the ingredients are pulled together.

Once again this year, our judges and editorial staff were intrigued and excited by the variety of entries in this competition. The range of business entities, along with the high quality of these ventures, bodes well for the next wave of NP entrepreneurs.

To all of you we say “Go for it!”

Michelle Perron Pronsati
Editor
Dear MNA and AAN Fellows,

Rhetaugh Etheldra Graves Dumas, a native of Natchez, Mississippi, died June 22, 2007. While we mourn the loss of this wonderful woman and Fellow, the impact of her contributions to the Fellowship, nursing, and humanity won't soon be forgotten.

Dr. Dumas was born on the eve of America's Great Depression. In the arc of a long professional life, Dr. Dumas surmounted numerous challenges and left an indelible mark in the health care system of the United States.

She made significant and lasting contributions to nursing and the nation as a nursing scholar, administrator, and outstanding leader and mentor with a career that has included pioneering positions in government, academia and academic medical center administration.

She was the first woman and the first nurse to serve as deputy director of the National Institute of Mental Health and was the first African American woman to serve as dean at the University of Michigan. She was one of 36 distinguished nurses who were Charter Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing when it was established in 1973, and from 1987-1989, Dr. Dumas was president of the American Academy of Nursing.

In 1979, Health and Human Services Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris appointed Dr. Dumas as deputy director of The National Institute of Mental Health, the lead Federal agency for research on mental and behavioral disorders. Later, President Bill Clinton appointed her to his National Advisory Commission on Bioethics. The Commission focused on protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects and issues in the management and use of genetic information. As part of its work, the commission considered the scientific, legal and ethical implications of patenting human genes.

In her clinical research, Dr. Dumas made outstanding contributions as a clinical nurse researcher while drawing on her previous experiences as a psychiatric nurse and gynecological surgical nurse. She pioneered the first evidence-based-outcomes study in clinical nursing research entitled, "The Effect of Nursing Care on Postoperative Vomiting." This landmark study is an example of the role that research can play in enhancing the art and science of nursing care, and in documenting the positive role of nursing for facilitating the comfort and wellbeing of patients.

Bringing her keen interest in research to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 1972, Dr. Dumas became, in seven short years, the first woman and first ethnic minority to hold the agency's position of Deputy Director. While there, she played a major role in urging that their professional training meet the needs of the un-served and under-served. In the 1980's through her position on the National Institutes of Health advisory council, she played a leadership role in integrating nursing research into the NIH. In the 1990's, as a Fellow of the Carl Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, she utilized Jung's insights in understanding gender and race as key variables to synthesize her personal experiences into a fresh statement about the dimensions of effective leadership.

As a nursing leader, Dr. Dumas' influence has been felt in education and nursing organizations. Dr. Dumas has impacted the lives of many nurses in her roles as nursing instructor; Assistant Professor; tenured Associate Professor at Yale University; Dean and Professor at the University of Michigan; and Vice Provost of Health Affairs at the University of Michigan. A dedicated and gifted teacher, mentor and academic administrator, Dr. Dumas has positively changed the lives of hundreds of nurses who are becoming the next generation of her thoughtful legacy.

In 1951, Dr. Dumas received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Dillard University and launched her career as a substitute teacher in the Natchez, Mississippi Separate Public School District. In the 1950's, she combined nursing and teaching in the public schools long before it was deemed innovative.

From 1957-1961, she was an instructor at Dillard University. In 1961, she received a Master's Degree in Psychiatric Nursing from Yale University. In 1962, she joined the faculty of Yale University, where she rose through the ranks to associate professor and chair of psychiatric nursing in the Yale University School of Nursing. From 1972-1981, she held several leadership positions at the National Institute of Mental Health, in Rockville, Maryland.

In 1981, Dr. Dumas joined the University of Michigan faculty as professor of nursing and dean of the School of Nursing. She remained dean until 1994, when she was named vice provost for health affairs and the Lucille Cole Professor of Nursing.

As dean of the School of Nursing, Professor Dumas was an ardent advocate of excellence in nursing research and scholarship as a means of advancing the discipline of nursing. She provided a powerful vision of nursing and demonstrated considerable personal and professional influence in many spheres. A renowned national and international scholar in the area of psychiatric nursing, Professor Dumas conducted extensive externally-funded research on clinical experiences in nursing practice and authored many journal articles and book chapters.

Professor Dumas received numerous honorary doctoral degrees, including those from Yale University; Simmons College; the University of Cincinnati; Dillard University; and the University of San Diego.

In 1991, the University of Michigan established The Rhetaugh Graves Dumas Professorship in Nursing, the first fully endowed ($1.2 million) professorship for the School of Nursing. Previously, in 1989, Yale University established an endowed chair in her name.

At the time of her death, Dr. Dumas had been a writing a book which she had not completed; in her personal life, Dr. Dumas enjoyed music—particularly opera; traveling, and entertaining friends.

She is survived by a daughter, Adrienne Josephine Dumas, of Houston, TX; brothers, Wade H. Graves, of Houston, TX; and Norman Bell, of Hartford, CT; previously, she was married to the late Dr. Albert W. Dumas, Jr., of Natchez, MS., 1950-1959.

Memorial Services: Saturday, July 28, 2007, 11:00 AM West Funeral Home, 409 M.L.King Drive (formerly Pine Street) Natchez, Mississippi 35320-3362 (601-442-3641).
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Mississippi Nurses Association dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes but may be deductible as a business expense. However, that percentage of dues used for lobbying by MNA (36%) is not deductible as a business expense. $7.50 of MNA member dues is for a subscription to The American Nurse. $14.00 is for a subscription to The Mississippi RN.