

# Francis Marion University

## Department of Nursing Alumni Newsletter

FMU Nursing  
on the Move

Jan 2015

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### Special points of interest:

- ◆ RN o BSN program has expanded to Mt. Pleasant
- ◆ RN to BSN program has a special option for veterans funded by a HRSA grant
- ◆ Health Science Building on Irby and Evans ready to start construction!

## MSN Update: Successful Graduate Program!



December 13, 2014 at Francis Marion University was a memorial date for the new MSN/FNP and Nurse Educator graduates. *Nineteen* FNP students and *four* Nurse Educators were hooded by Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price. This hooding represents years of planning and creation of a program from several visionary leaders. Those graduates are, for the most part, from the Pee Dee and many are FMU alumni. Most of our students plan to stay in the area to become Educators and providers of

healthcare. All of the graduate students have impressed their preceptors, and many have been offered jobs. The FNP positions are offering between \$75,000 to \$94,000/year with great benefits. We are proud of all of our graduates and are admitting another large class of FNP and Nurse Educator students.

If you know of anyone interested have them contact us and as always thank you for supporting FMU. ~

Dr. Deborah L. Hopla

### RN to BSN VETERANS

FMU has developed a program to thank veterans for their service. AND vets can finish three credits of their baccalaureate degree by participating in a one-day simulation experience. The experience validates skills that veterans already have mastered such as delegation, prioritization, and advocacy. Its just a small token of our thanks to those who have served! ~ RWP

Dear FMU Nursing Alumni,

I would like to introduce myself as the current president of the Francis Marion University Nursing Alumni Association. I have been working closely with Mrs. Marty Huckes, assistant professor of nursing, to bring nursing alumni together for the betterment of our nursing community. Since the start of this association, we have held a reception in the Francis Marion University Cottage where we recognized our guest of honor, Dr. Sylvia Lufkin. During this reception, we introduced the idea of creating a nursing alumni association scholarship. With the help of Francis Marion University, a committee comprised of three FMU nursing graduates, and myself have since created a scholarship to be awarded to a senior Nursing Major. With the annual receptions and scholarship, we will be sending out a newsletter updating alumni on changes within the school of nursing, changes in healthcare across the United States, as well as recognizing an outstanding nursing alumni. Included in the newsletters will be a pledge card that will give you the opportunity to contribute to the newly developed nursing scholarship. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the FMU Nursing Alumni Association, please feel free to contact me at [tking707@gmail.com](mailto:tking707@gmail.com).

With Patriot Pride, Tyler King

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**19 FNPs!!! And 4  
Nurse Educators  
Graduated  
December 2014**

**12 Days Until Graduation-**

written by Cindy Gainey, FNP Dec 13 graduate!

On the 12 Days till Graduation my instructors gave to me...

- 12 - Typhon rejects
- 11 - Nervous breakdowns
- 10 - Affirmations
- 9 - Ethics papers
- 8 - Group projects
- 7 - Peer responses
- 6 - Patho punches
- 5 - DISCUSSION BOARDS
- 4 - Syllabus changes
- 3 - Book reports
- 2 - Resumes & 1 letter to my representative

**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](http://www.fmarion.edu/foundation/scholarships). Please earmark for Nursing Alumni Scholarship.

January Enrollment  
January FNP enrollment = 30  
Nurse Educator = 5  
RN to BSN = 20  
Pre-Licensure = 50

**Undergraduate Nursing Update**

Dr. Tracy George

First semester junior nursing students enrolled in NURS 301: Health Assessment have been busy this semester providing health screenings at several community sites. The health screenings allowed the students to practice taking blood pressures and gave them an opportunity to interact with a variety of people in the community. On September 10 and 17, 2014, they went to Johnson Controls and to the Leatherman Senior Center to do blood pressures, finger stick glucose and cholesterol tests, and weights. On October 15, 2014, the students went to Worthington Industries to provide flu shots and blood pressure screenings. The first semester juniors also participated in a campus-wide flu shot clinic at the Lee Nursing Building Lobby on October 15, 2014. On November 1, 2014, the students did foot screenings, finger stick glucose tests, and blood pressures at the McLeod Diabetes Fair. Each group of students created a poster on a health-related topic that was displayed during the screening. Educational materials on hypertension, exercise, and weight loss were available for the participants at the screenings. The nursing students reviewed the pamphlets and answered questions from the patients at the screenings. The health screenings have been made possible through a Project REAL grant through FMU!

**Alumni Reps Needed**

The FMU Nursing Alumni Group would like a representative from each nursing class to attend meetings. Please contact Tyler King at [tking707@gmail.com](mailto:tking707@gmail.com) if you are interested. Thank you!

**SIMULATION MOULAGE!  
COME VISIT OUR SIM LAB  
IN THE LNB**



**MSN/Nurse Educator  
Program Options**

In December, four students graduated from the MSN Nurse Educator track, and two FNP students earned a Certificate in Nursing Education. The MSN Nurse Educator track is a 36 credit, fully online program that prepares the graduate to serve as a nurse educator in the academic as well as clinical practice area. Three of the courses are offered as a collaborative effort with the Graduate School of Education. In addition to online coursework, learners complete 270 total practicum hours in the academic and clinical nurse educator role. The Certificate in Nursing Education is designed for the FNP who is interested in teaching and can be earned with the completion of three designated nursing education courses. For more information, contact Dr. Karen Gittings at [kjgittings@fmarion.edu](mailto:kjgittings@fmarion.edu) or 661-1688.

**Please send in any personal or professional news to [rwittmannprice@fmarion.edu](mailto:rwittmannprice@fmarion.edu) for March newsletter by Feb 15th! THANK YOU**