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April 2013

The Pulse

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Message from the Dean: The Golden Thread

"Caring is the shining thread of gold that holds together the tapestry of life." -Ida V. Moffett



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One of the most gratifying comments we hear from our alumni is that they left nursing school "prepared" to serve as caring, compassionate and competent nurses. At the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing we spend a lot of time focusing on what we can do to ensure that our graduates are well-equipped to serve in their profession and within their communities. Preparedness is the theme for much of what we do and we strongly believe that graduates should leave us ready to carry on the Moffett legacy.

Did you know that Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing graduates consistently achieve licensure and certification pass rates well above the national average? This is a result of not only our students' hard work and determination, but also our faculty's commitment to providing practical and innovative educational opportunities that allow graduates to leave us confident in their skills and knowledge. Pass rates for the

NCLEX-RN exam and the nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia certification exams continue to be in the upper ninetieth percentile, with many classes achieving a perfect 100 percent.

You will see in this issue a number of ways in which faculty and students prepare to not only be successful nurses, but also engaged members of their communities. The annual disaster drill has quickly become a signature event for us and we hope that the positive effects it garners will be beneficial to our students and community for years to come. In addition, you will see students preparing to serve others through a variety of initiatives. You will also notice some of the many ways in which our school is responding to the needs of our students and alumni.

I hope that you enjoy this issue and that you will continue to support the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing with your



gifts of time, talent, resources and prayers. The coming weeks are particularly important for our students and faculty as they finish another semester, so please say a special prayer for them during this busy time. I invite you to join us for our pinning and commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 17. Pinning for our undergraduate students will be held at 10 a.m. at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in the main sanctuary and commencement will take place at 3:30 in the Wright Center.

Sincerely,
Nena F. Sanders, DSN, RN
Ralph W. Beeson Dean and Professor

Nursing School Hosts Second Annual Disaster Drill

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing simulated a community incident on Tuesday, April 9 to help prepare future nurses to respond in the event of a campus or community emergency. In partnership with Homewood Police and Fire, Jefferson County EMA and Regional Paramedic Service, the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing created a situation involving injuries ranging from psychological impact to fatalities.

Nursing students played the roles of victims as well as first responders. By responding to the emergency, 90 junior and senior nursing students fulfilled the objectives of participating in the triage process and interdisciplinary communication. Community agencies interacted with students as they would in an actual emergency and provided an opportunity for essential interdisciplinary education.

“Nurses are often called upon to respond in a time of crisis, and it is our hope that this drill will help our students be more adequately



“Nurses are often called upon to respond in a time of crisis, and it is our hope that this drill will help our students be more adequately prepared to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations.”



prepared to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations,” said Jill Pence, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Undergraduate Simulation in the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing. “By collaborating with community agencies, our students are able to learn to successfully interact with their colleagues in the field,” she added.

In addition to meeting the objectives of the nursing school, the drill allowed partnering agencies to assess their emergency response plans. First-responders utilized normal protocol for responding to such a disaster. In addition to participating in the simulation, representatives from the various agencies and other third parties were on hand to evaluate their respective participants’ response and the school of nursing faculty evaluated the students’ response to the situation. University and nursing school leadership will conduct follow-up meetings with

agency partners to discuss the response and next steps.

Associate Professor Cindy Berry and Pence were the lead developers of the simulation. “It is essential that our students and the university be prepared for situations such as the one simulated today,” said Berry. “We are grateful to the various community agencies for helping us better equip our students and the university to respond to critical community incidents.”

This is the second annual disaster drill coordinated by the school of nursing. Berry and Pence recently received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alabama League for Nursing for their innovative strategy of implementing interdisciplinary education into the undergraduate curriculum. They plan to continue disaster simulations annually, utilizing different scenarios and have been asked to present on the topic at numerous professional conferences.

April 2013

Freshmen Nursing Students Write Notes to Pediatric Cancer Patients



On Tuesday, April 2, freshmen nursing students gathered to write notes to pediatric cancer patients. The project was a result of a connection with aTeam Ministries, a non-profit organization led by Andy Thrower based out of Homewood, Ala. The

organization's primary goal is to walk alongside families affected by pediatric cancer and support them in any way possible.

Student **Anna Foyt** heard about the Thrower family's personal experience with pediatric cancer through her church. "I thought that partnering with aTeam would be a great way for nursing students to get involved in the community and to have contact with the pediatric cancer

community that some students may work with in the future," said Foyt.

More than 30 notes were sent to six different children who are, according to aTeam's leadership, big fans of getting mail. "We hope to continue writing letters to the children and volunteering with aTeam to help them raise awareness and garner support," said Foyt.

School of Nursing Supports BNF's 30th Anniversary

Nurses from around the world gathered in Birmingham, April 11-13, for the 30th Anniversary celebration and annual meeting of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF). The BNF met in conjunction with the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship at the Women's Missionary Union and The Church at Brook Hills. The theme of the meeting was "The Story Lives On...Bringing Healing and Hope, Touching Hearts Around the World."

The nursing school's NurCE sponsored the continuing nursing education programs for the meeting, including the keynote address, "The Story Lives On: Past/Present/Future," and a diabetes update. Also, the nurses visited the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing where **Jill Pence**, coordinator of undergraduate simulation and assistant professor, presented "Utilizing Simulation Experiences in a Nursing Curriculum" and provided the visitors with a tour of the simulation lab.



BNF Nurses during their campus visit

Nursing Students Inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society

Twelve freshmen nursing students were inducted into the national honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta. In order to be eligible for induction, students must have a GPA of 3.5 or better and a position in the top 20% of the class during the first term of college while enrolled full-time. Congratulations to these outstanding students.

2013 Inductees:

Marisa Askew
Brianna Canady
Monica Cotton
Sara Hess
Christina Hessing
Dorsey Hoskins

Rebecca Jackson
Hannah Landgrave
Carlee Sansom
Abbie Shimer
Mary Ellen Smith
Hannah Wilbanks



Accolades, Honors and Acknowledgements—Alumni and Students



Heather Rankin and Elizabeth Broome

Nurse Anesthesia student **Elizabeth Broome** and alumna **Heather Rankin**, MSN 2005, attended the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C. and participated in the student mentor program coordinated by the AANA Public Relations Committee. Broome serves as the student representative for the committee, and Rankin is the current chair.

Cristy Daffron, DNP 2012,

published "Fit for Service: A Model of Self Care for Parish Nurses" in the *Journal of Christian Nursing* April-June issue.

Dr. Daffron and **Debbie Duke**, MSN 2012, BSN, 2000, presented "Spiritual Teaching/Learning Strategies: Preparing Faith Community Nurses to Deliver Eloquent Spiritual Care in the Church and Community" at the Church Health Center Westberg Symposium on April 7 in Memphis, Tenn.

Mckenzie Harrison, a junior in the BSN program, was inducted into the Order of the Omega, a leadership honor society for members of campus based fraternities and sororities. Only the top 3% of the community, juniors and seniors, are eligible.

Paul Ropp, DNP 2012, was accepted to present, "Validating the Self Extubation Risk Assessment Tool," at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences College of Nursing research day on April 19.

Two Nursing Students Selected as Brand Ambassadors



Devynne Roahrig

Two nursing students were named Samford University brand ambassadors for the month of March.

Senior **Hannah Dawson** and junior **Devynne Roahrig** were selected after being nominated by members of the Samford community.

Dawson, a team captain of the two-time Southern Conference champion women's basketball team, was cited for her academic and clinical achievements as well as her community involvement. She has worked with Community Kitchen of Birmingham, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Samaritans' Feet, United Way, Boo at the Zoo, Serve our City, March of Dimes and as a volunteer for the Sunshine Room for children staying at Children's Hospital while awaiting surgery.

"Being a nursing major alone requires time commitment and so does being a varsity athlete. Hannah has handled both well," said the person nominating her. "[The] faculty has complimented her on her exceptional performance in the clinical setting. She is a leader among her peers and a hard worker. She will leave a 12 hour clinical shift and go straight to basketball practice without any complaints. Being on her feet for 12 hours does not interfere with her basketball practice. She gives 110 percent."

Roahrig was nominated by a fellow student.

"She has meant so much to me and many others. She is always smiling and serving others," said her nominator. "She loves Samford and makes the people

around her want to love it too. She has helped make Samford a home for me."

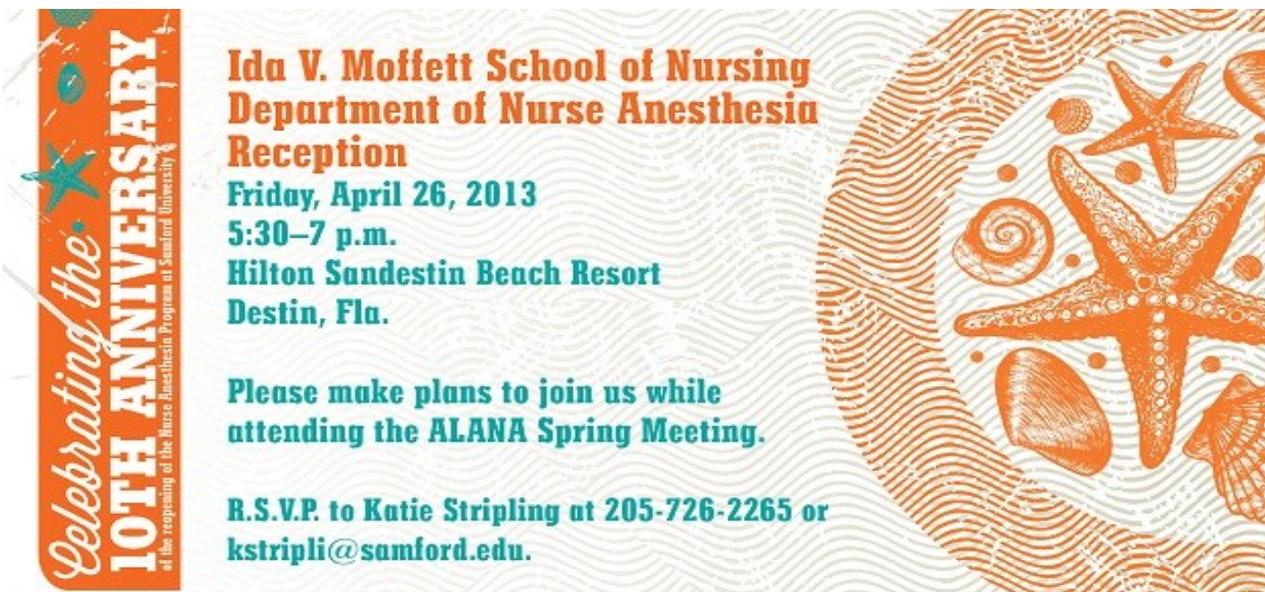
Roahrig is a community service ambassador and part of the Office of Admission student recruitment team. She also is involved in leading a Bible study, is actively involved with The Church at Brook Hills and served as a 2012 Connections leader.

In a new initiative launched in January 2013, Samford's Office of Marketing and Communication is promoting the concept of every member of the university community as a "brand ambassador." As part of the emphasis, the Office of Marketing and Communication is recognizing a "brand ambassador of the month" from the university community. The first brand ambassadors were announced in February.

April 2013

Join the Moffett Nurse Network for our Upcoming Events

Nurse Anesthesia Reception at the ALANA Spring Meeting on April 26



**Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing
Department of Nurse Anesthesia
Reception**

**Friday, April 26, 2013
5:30-7 p.m.
Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort
Destin, Fla.**

**Please make plans to join us while
attending the ALANA Spring Meeting.**

**R.S.V.P. to Katie Stripling at 205-726-2265 or
kstripli@samford.edu.**

Birmingham Nurses Enjoy the City's Newest Attraction on May 2



**Join the
MOFFETT NURSE NETWORK
in Birmingham, Alabama!**

**Please make plans to join
Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing
alumni for a**

**Birmingham
Barons™
Game**

**Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m.
Regions Field
Birmingham, Alabama**

There is no charge for Moffett nurses to attend; however, additional tickets for spouses or children may be purchased in advance for \$7. Seating is limited and reservations are required. R.S.V.P. to Katie Stripling by April 24 at kstripli@samford.edu or 205-726-2265

Moffett Nurse Network Lunch at the AANP Conference on June 20

[Join the Moffett Nurse Network in Las Vegas!](#)

Join us for a networking lunch while you are in town for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Conference.

Thursday, June 20 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at The Venetian

Please RSVP to rbrazil@samford.edu or 205-726-2328.

Dr. Beers Named Department Chair for the Undergraduate Program



*Dr. Geri Beers,
Department Chair for
Undergraduate Program*

Geri Beers, EdD, MSN, RN, has been named Department Chair for the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing undergraduate program, effective fall 2013. Beers has served as a professor and faculty member in the school's undergraduate program for 21 years. In addition to her new role, she will continue to coordinate and teach Adult Health and will do clinical each week.

"Dr. Beers brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position and she will be a tremendous asset to the undergraduate program in this role," said Joy Whatley, associate dean for undergraduate nursing programs. "With her extensive experience as an educator and clinician, she will serve as a strong

mentor and leader for our faculty," Whatley added.

Beers is looking forward to her new role. "The current undergraduate faculty in the school of nursing is the strongest I have ever worked with; they excel as educators, clinicians and in their devotion to student success," said Beers. "I am fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to the school in this new position, while continuing my role as an educator," she added.

Beers is the faculty advisor for the school of nursing's student ambassadors, the diplomats, and has taken undergraduate students to London as a part of the Nursing in the British Isles course five times. In addition, Beers often serves a preceptor for graduate

students in the school's Nurse Educator track. She is highly regarded by her students and peers for her unique ability to build rapport with them while serving as a mentor and example for professional nursing practice.

An active member of the community, Beers has served as a volunteer at M-Power Ministry's medical clinic for more than 10 years and is a volunteer for the Birmingham Hospitality Network. Beers is also active in her church, Trinity United Methodist.

Beers obtained a master of science in nursing and a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the doctor of education from Samford University.

Accolades, Honors and Acknowledgements—Faculty and Staff



Lisa Allison

Lisa Allison, MSN, RN, presented her doctoral project to the 2013 Joint DNP Intensive on April 11. Her prospective study at Children's of Alabama compared methods of measuring intraoperative endotracheal tube cuff pressure in children. Also, Sigma Theta Tau presented Allison an award for the most outstanding project from the UAB component. She will graduate from the DNP program in May.

Cindy Berry, DNP, RN, and **Jill Pence**, MSN, RN, CNE, were presented the Excellence in

Teaching Award for the Alabama League for Nursing (ALN) on April 4, 2013 in Jacksonville, Ala.

Dr. Berry and **Mrs. Pence** also presented "Working Together: Staging an Interprofessional Disaster Simulation" as a podium presentation at the 2013 ALN Annual Meeting.

Debbie Duke, MSN, RN, received a \$7,500 grant for the Congregational Health Program from the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. Funds will be used to conduct diabetes education in churches.

Mrs. Pence presented "Using Lecture Capture to Promote Active Learning" as a poster presentation at the 2013 ALN Annual Meeting and "Using Simulation in Undergraduate Nursing Education" at the 2013 Baptist Nursing Foundation International Conference.

Gretchen McDaniel, DSN, RN, CNE, **Mrs. Debbie Duke** and **Cristy Daffron**, DNP 2012, presented "Twenty Years of Faith Community Nursing/Parish Nursing and Congregational Health Programs in Alabama" at the Church Health Center Westberg Symposium on April 7 in Memphis, Tenn.



Cindy Berry and Jill Pence

April 2013

Upcoming NurCE Continuing Education Opportunities

May 7, 2013: Confronting Current Nursing Education Issues 2013 (DNP presentations)

May 14-15, 2013: Evidence-Based Approaches to Nursing Administration, Practice, and Education Issues (MSN Nurse Educator presentations)

To learn more about NurCE, please visit, <http://www.samford.edu/nursing/nurce.aspx>.

Looking Ahead: Save the Date

CAP AND CAPE SOCIETY LUNCHEON

Friday, October 11, 2013

11:00 a.m., Birmingham, Ala.

Alumni from the classes of 1922-1973 are invited to join us for an annual gathering celebrating the memories and traditions of the Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing.



Courage to Care Awards Gala

Friday, October 11, 2013

7:00 p.m., B & A Warehouse

Celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of extraordinary alumni with an elegant evening at one of Birmingham's favorite event venues. Dress is black-tie optional and tickets are \$75 and must be purchased in advance. Complimentary valet parking will be provided. Sponsorships and tables are available.

Courage
to Care

Annual Homecoming Barbecue

Saturday, November 17, 2013

12:00 p.m., Center for Healing Arts Plaza, Samford University

Join us for our annual alumni and friends barbecue. Individual classes may schedule reunions by contacting Katie Stripling. Tickets are \$5 per person.





Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing Mission

The mission of the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing is to nurture students while providing quality education in a Christian environment that prepares caring, competent and compassionate graduates with a commitment to service, scholarship, life-long learning and professional practice.

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Dates to Remember:

- **April 26:** Nurse Anesthesia Reception in Destin, Fla.
- **May 2:** Birmingham Alumni Event at the Barons game
- **May 3:** Advisory Board Meeting
- **May 17:** Pinning and Commencement
- **June 20:** Moffett Nurse Network in Las Vegas
- **October 11:** Cap and Cape Luncheon
- **October 11:** Courage to Care Gala
- **November 16:** Homecoming Barbecue



Senior nursing students celebrate passing their last Critical Care exam before graduation.

Share Your News!

If you know of any student, faculty, or alumni awards, presentations, conferences, scholarships, photographs or any other announcements, etc. that you would like posted in the next edition of The Pulse, please send them to kstripli@samford.edu or call 205-726-2265.

Special Thanks

....to everyone who contributed news and photos to this issue. Please continue to share your news with us!

Newsletter Editor

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