

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Willey, Ph.D., RN, CNS, CLNC, CNE

Welcome 2019! I want to wish each of you a very happy and healthy new year and also fill you in on the many significant items to report over the past year. Change – we often hear of it, and as nurses, we often experience it. Here at the SU School of Nursing, we have had our share. As you may or may not know, the nursing programs at SU have gone through some extraordinary changes in the past year. We are no longer a “Department” but have now become a “School” of Nursing, joining two other schools at SU – Health Sciences and Social Work – as part of the newly-formed College of Health and Human Services. This has created many exciting opportunities, such as naming of the new school and college, inter-professional collaborations, as well as attracting new faculty and students.

One such opportunity resulted in the changing of degree offerings from the new School of Nursing. In the past, SU nursing program graduates received a B.S. or M.S. degree with a concentration in nursing. We have received approval from the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Board of Nursing and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to offer the B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees. Graduates can now add the “N” to their credentials as well as have this appear on transcripts.

Another change that occurred as a result of becoming a School of Nursing in the College of Health & Human Services was a new leadership structure. As you may have noticed, my title changed from “Chair” of the Department of Nursing to the “Director” of the School of Nursing. With this change, the school also formed two new positions, that of undergraduate program chair (Dr. Debra Webster) and graduate program chair (Dr. Dorothea Winter). We also added a new clinical coordinator position (Dr. Kayna Freda) who oversees the immunizations, background checks and clinical site coordination. In addition to her work in the School of Nursing, Dr. Lisa Seldomridge was named the first director of the Simulation Center for the College of Health & Human Services.

Even with all of the changes, some things remain the same. SU’s NCLEX pass rates continue to be exceptionally strong. Last year’s first-time pass rate came in at an astounding 98.8 percent. We are very proud of our students’ continued success that is due, in part, to our outstanding and dedicated

faculty and staff. Last year, SU had two students selected for prestigious rotations at Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. SU’s Student Nursing Association (SNA) also achieved another milestone in continuing to maintain the record for the longest continuous resolution passage rate of all SNAs across the United States.

This past year, we also had a few additions to the School of Nursing faculty. Dr. Anastacia (Staci) Jester and Dr. Annette Barnes (see separate article). Finally, Dr. Jennifer Hart, who was already a faculty member, completed her D.N.P. from SU and passed her boards to join us as an FNP.

# GREETINGS FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM CHAIR

By Dorothea M. Winter, Ph.D., RN

**Deanna L.**

As the new graduate program chair, I am thrilled to acknowledge our May 2018 D.N.P. graduates. This second group of D.N.P. graduates from SU includes the first graduates of our B.S.-to-D.N.P. program. As you can see from the D.N.P. scholarly project titles below, our D.N.P. graduates continue to make a huge impact on communities in the region.

**Jordan P. Braniff, Project Title:** *Improving Outpatient Follow-up for Hypertensive Patients Post-Emergency Department Visit Using a Staff Education and Telephone Referral Intervention*

**Jennifer A. Hart, Project Title:** *Improving Inpatient Education and Follow-up in Patients with Heart Failure*

**Lori A. Harvin, Project Title:** *Bridging the Gap: The Use of a Faith-Based Intervention to Improve the Management of Hypertension among African Americans*

**Holly B. Hayman, Project Title:** *Symptom Management Protocol and Hospice Nurse Educational Intervention Improves Management of Exacerbated Symptoms*

**Nalynn Y. Holland, Project Title:** *Integrating Palliative Care Screening into Primary Care*

**Jean E. Jauregui, Project Title:** *Retrospective Chart Review of Prescribing Habits for Acute Low Back Pain in an Emergency Department*

## SIMULATION CENTER UPDATE

The year 2018 was a very busy one for the Henson Medical Simulation Center! The center, located at 106 Pine Bluff Road, offers six specialized simulation suites, three fully equipped control rooms and four debriefing rooms. It is also home to the Applied Health Physiology Lab, supporting clinical research projects of SU's School of Health Science's facilitators, and the Eastern Shore Faculty Academy and Mentoring Initiative (ES-FAMI), a grant-funded educational program for clinical nurses who want to teach at Salisbury University or regional community colleges. It houses five high-fidelity patient simulators, life-like manikins that react physiologically as if they were alive. These advanced manikins are used to recreate real-life situations and provide learners with an opportunity to practice and refine clinical skills without the risk of patient harm. The Center also received a

