I am honored to serve Union College as Dean of Nursing. January 2016 marks my 15 year anniversary as a nursing educator. I can’t think of anywhere else I would love to celebrate that milestone than Union College and the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing.

It is a wonderful opportunity to advance my career, now serving Union as Dean of Nursing. Over the past 15 years I’ve taught in all facets of nursing education - Licensed Practical Nursing programs, and Associate Degree Nursing programs (RN) and now a Baccalaureate program and an RN to BSN program at Union College.

For the first time since the inception of the nursing programs at Union College, we currently have a 2016 senior class of 15 students, a 2017 junior class of 15 students and the newly admitted 2018 class of 23 nursing students. The nursing laboratory has been a busy gathering place for the senior and junior students as they prepare for skills check off and review skills to prepare them for the upcoming clinical rotations.

Union BSN students are in high demand in the area healthcare market. I’ve been contacted by several facilities that wish to come and speak to our graduating class later this spring about opportunities in nursing as... PAGE 4

Three Union College nursing students have been honored for selecting the name of the official newsletter for the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing. The students took part in a contest sponsored by Union alumna Edna Jenkins Mann.

Students Abby Tigue, a senior from Pineville, Kayla Moyers, a junior from Tazewell, TN, and Chad Abner, a senior from Barbourville, each submitted the winning name – The Stethoscoop – and were recognized for their creativity. Marisa Greer, Dean of Nursing, and Michael R. McPherson, Vice-President for Advancement, held a brief ceremony recognizing the students. They were each awarded a cash prize donated to Union by Mrs. Mann. ... PAGE 4

Registered nurses working across Kentucky and beyond can earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing completely online with Union College’s new online RN-BSN program. Dr. David Johns, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, announced the launch of the program in December. The online adaptation of the program follows the initial development of the on-campus RN-BSN degree option at Union in 2010 through the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing.

“Union’s online RN-BSN option will give more registered nurses the opportunity to continue to support their careers and their families, while pursuing a bachelor’s... PAGE 4
NEW STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY

The 2017 class of nursing students at Union College have begun their journey toward a career of healing those in need.

In a white coat ceremony held at the Conway Boatman Chapel, Marisa Greer, Dean of Nursing, led 15 students across the stage and cloaked each with a white lab coat; a universal symbol of the career the students have chosen to pursue. Other professors from the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing gave the students a journal and a candle. The professors congratulated each student as they left the stage to applause and photographs from family members in the audience.


PATHWAYS TO NURSING

Union College and the Laurel County School District have established a partnership that will allow high school students to enter a career pathway through the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing.

The pathway agreement will benefit students in the Allied Health Science program of study at CFI, said Dr. James Davis, Principal. Dr. Davis said the Center for Innovation will provide students with specialized courses, such as Principles of Health Science, Medical Terminology and Nurse Aide Practicum, to prepare them for post-secondary education in healthcare concentrations. CFI students who graduate with at least a “B” grade in those courses will be offered direct admission to Union’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program after the successful completion of all general education courses.

RECENT RN-BSN GRADUATES

Three RN-BSN students were recognized for completion of the on-campus RN-BSN program during a pinning ceremony held on December 7. Carla Gilbert, Rhonda Johnson and Denise Maynes were each recognized for completion of the program and presented their nursing pins by Dr. Lorene Todd Putnam, former Dean of the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing.

The program was led by Dean of Nursing Marisa Greer who welcomed family and friends of the students, nursing school faculty and members of the community.
A WARM CHRISTMAS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS
Union College nursing students shared the Christmas spirit of giving with residents at the Barbourville Health and Rehabilitation Center. As the Christmas season neared, students took the initiative to organize a sock drive, helping to warm the season for the residents living at the facility. The students visited the facility and delivered 138 pairs of socks, gloves and several blankets to the residents. Union nursing students practice clinical work at Barbourville Health and Rehabilitation Center and work with the residents daily. One student is employed by the center.

NURSING IS A HOT CAREER

NEARLY 1,000 STUDENTS FROM 15 COUNTIES IN KENTUCKY PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT AND SAW FIRST HAND THE BENEFITS OF UNION’S NURSING PROGRAM.

Nursing students joined with admissions staff to highlight the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing during Kentucky’s Health Occupations Today Expo held in Somerset, Kentucky. The expo gathered colleges and medical institutions from across the state in order to share educational opportunities with high school students looking to pursue medical careers. Union students provided flyers and information on the program, demonstrated skills using medical mannequins and highlighted other aspects of nursing at Union College. The expo was sponsored by Southern KY AHEC.
From the front

RN-BSN ONLINE degree that will strengthen their career options,” Dr. Johns said.
The online RN-BSN program will utilize Union’s professional nursing educators and high-tech curriculum setting for all coursework. Union also has agreements with a variety of healthcare facilities in the state allowing online RN-BSN students to complete clinical field work close to home.

Marisa Greer, Union’s Dean of Nursing, says the new online nursing program option will serve to improve the education of nurses in the field and level of healthcare provided throughout the region.

“It is wonderful to have the opportunity to provide this program to nurses throughout the region, Kentucky and beyond,” Greer said.

Greer said more often healthcare facilities are requiring the advanced nursing degrees and many offer financial support to encourage their nurses to pursue a bachelor’s degree. Nurses with a bachelor’s degree are eligible for a broader scope of career options as well as graduate study. Union’s online RN-BSN program can be completed in as little as 18 months.

NEWSLETTER NAMING
The Stethoscoop will be a periodic newsletter published online and in print to provide Union supporters with the latest news from the Edna Jenkins Mann School of Nursing. This, the first edition, was published in February 2016.

UNION’S ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges recently announced that Union College has earned its 10-year accreditation reaffirmation.

“This is a noteworthy accomplishment and the result of the hard work and dedication of our entire campus community,” President Marcia Hawkins said. “The impact of Union on the lives of students and the future of our region is significant and the SACSCOC reaffirmation is one of several indicators that other institutions find value in our work.”

Federal regulations require all institutions of higher education to meet accreditation standards and to undergo a thorough review every 10 years.

From the Dean’s desk

they reach the milestone of graduation.
The past six months have been very busy, to say the least. One area of focus is the number of partnerships we maintain with healthcare facilities that give our students the best clinical experiences throughout the program. I’m happy to say that we have gained many new partners; including several that I have a long history with as an educator.

With the strong partnerships that we have forged, our students receive the necessary clinical experiences to enhance what they learn in the classroom. The nursing program faculty at Union College are so thankful to have these amazing healthcare partners in our local area.

TAKE CARE,

Marisa Greer

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