

GATEWAY

ISSUE 6 | FALL 2023

to Health

Quinn and Keith Leibfried STEM Building



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

FGC's Certified Nursing Assistant Program Serves as a Foundation for Students Entering the Nursing Profession

CLINICAL PARTNERS

FGC's HIT Programs Partner with Mayo Clinic to Provide Virtual Professional Coding Experiences

ABOUT

the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences

The mission of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences is to provide high quality and affordable nursing and healthcare programs that will produce highly educated, caring, and compassionate graduates, who will meet the workforce needs within our local and surrounding communities, while making a lifetime commitment to continuous education.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- [Nursing, B.S. \(RN-BSN\)](#)
- [Registered Nursing, A.S. \(ASDN-RN\)](#)
- [LPN-RN Bridge: Traditional Full-Time](#)
- [LPN-RN Bridge: Fast Track](#)
- [Practical Nursing, O.C. \(PN\)](#)
- [Physical Therapist Assistant, A.S.](#)
- [Health Information Technology, A.S.](#)
- [Medical Coder/Biller, A.T.D.](#)
- [Phlebotomy, O.C.](#)
- [Nursing Assistant \(Articulated\)](#)

GATEWAY TO HEALTH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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Page 3 LETTER FROM THE
ASSISTANT DEAN

Page 4 WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Page 6 PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

*Faculty and Student Share the
Evolution and Impact of FGC's Nursing
Simulation Lab*

Page 8 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

*Nursing and Health Sciences' faculty
and staff share what excites them
most about starting a new academic
year*

Page 9 MEET THE STAFF MEMBER

*Get to Know Jeannette Blackmon,
Senior Staff Assistant*

Page 9 TRAVELING TO TEXAS

*Nursing faculty shares her experience
at the 2023 ATI conference*

Page 10 A DAY IN THE LIFE...

*FGC's HIT Programs Partner with
Mayo Clinic to Provide Virtual
Professional Coding Experiences*

Page 10 ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

*Former Florida Gateway College
graduate awarded "Best Primary Care
Practice in the 352"*

Page 11 DN&HS SPOTLIGHTS
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Page 12 HOSA EXPERIENCE DAY

Page 5
PIONEERING THE WAY

*FGC's Certified Nursing Assistant Program Serves as a
Foundation for Students Entering the Nursing
Profession*

LETTER

from the Assistant Dean



With the end of the summer 2023 semester, Florida Gateway College completed an exciting year by celebrating our 75th Anniversary as an institution. We have seen a lot of changes since its inception as the Columbia Forestry School, and who we are and what we do today is certainly worth celebrating. With all that going on, the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences have had their own accomplishments to applaud. Preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals is a monumental task and an incredible responsibility. I am thankful for the team of faculty and staff in our department who are so passionate about their respective fields and so deeply committed to the success of our students. Because of them and their efforts, our students are performing at exceptional levels.

Our healthcare system is experiencing alarming workforce shortages with staff leaving the profession at much higher rates than others are entering it. Our industry partners and stakeholders have communicated their needs for competent graduates to fill staffing shortfalls so that the members of our communities can receive safe, skilled care. In response, we have focused on initiatives that facilitate getting more students into and successfully through our programs. By providing a schedule that allows students to complete the associate in science nursing program in a shorter time while maintaining a high

standard of excellence, we are optimistic about meeting the needs of our students and those who will ultimately employ our graduates.

Our Health Information Technology programs are now synchronously online to boost enrollment and meet the scheduling needs of the students. Members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Council were strong supporters in the decision to make the programs online. We are striving to meet the needs of the students, increase enrollment and retention, and ultimately generate well-prepared health information technology and medical coder/biller professionals.

Our nursing programs have made a few adjustments to increase the number of graduates ready to enter the healthcare workforce. Some of those changes include:

- Implementing a new accelerated nursing program track;
- Adding a spring start date to the traditional nursing track;
- Eliminating the summer break (effectively shortening the length of the program);
- Adding a spring phlebotomy program for traditional and dual enrollment students; and
- Bringing back the CNA program

However, unless the students are successful in their programs and on their certification exams, none of those efforts would be beneficial. With that in mind, I would be remiss if I did not mention and applaud the drastically improved NCLEX-RN certification exam success rates. Our

December 2022 ASDN graduates rallied with a 100% first-time pass rate!

It is exciting to report that, as a department, we are experiencing an increase in enrollment, retention, and graduation. Industry partners, please know that incredible groups of eager and enthusiastic professionals are coming your way. Please support their continued growth. I am confident that they will serve you well and make us proud to say that they are graduates of the nursing and health sciences programs of Florida Gateway College.

*Assistant Dean
Nursing and Health Sciences*

Ann D. Brown, Assistant Dean of Florida Gateway College's Nursing and Health Sciences, enjoys a rich personal and professional life. She is married with two grown children and four grandchildren. Her 32 years of service and experience in Emergency Medical Services and Critical Care Nursing began in 1990 when she received her Paramedic certification from Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Mrs. Brown went on to receive both an Associate degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from FSCJ. Education plays a vital role in Mrs. Brown's life; she earned her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education in 2015 from Western Governors University. She continues to embrace education while furthering her doctoral studies at Florida State University, studying Educational Leadership. Mrs. Brown's service to Florida Gateway College began ten years ago, and she is proud to continue that service in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Recognizing our Recent Faculty Additions



Melaney **GORDON**, *PT, DPT*

Instructor, Physical Therapy Assistant

- **Education:** Doctor of Physical Therapy | University of Florida
- **Experience:** Former full-time physical therapist in the hospital setting
- **Favorite Quote:** "Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth." – Anonymous



Kimberly **GIVENS**, *MSN, RN, FNP-BC*

Assistant Professor, Nursing

- **Education:** Master of Science, Nursing | University of Alabama at Birmingham
- **Fun Fact:** "I make homemade soaps for fun!"
- **Favorite Quote:** "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the full staircase." – Martin Luther King Jr.



Denielle **WASCHEK**, *MSN, APRN, FNP-BC*

Assistant Professor, Nursing

- **Education:** Master of Science, Nursing; APRN | Southern University
- **Fun Fact:** "Love the Arts, especially martial/painting/written/dance/motion picture. I also have a secret penchant for K-Drama. 😊"
- **Favorite Quotes:** 1) "Know from whence you came... If you know from whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go." – James Baldwin 2) "May the stars carry your sadness away, may the flowers fill your heart with beauty, may hope forever wipe away your tears, and above all, may silence make you strong."- Chief Dan George



Jessica **LANE**, *MSN, RN, CNOR*

Assistant Professor, Nursing

- **Education:** Master of Science, Nurse Education | Capella University
- **Experience:** Former Health Science, CNA and EKG instructor and HOSA Advisor at Fort White High School
- **Fun Fact:** "I love to sing!"
- **Favorite Quote:** "Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." – C.T. Studd



Certified Nursing Assistant students and instructor, Rebecca McDaniel, gather in front of the Quinn and Keith Leibfried STEM Building.

PIONEERING THE WAY

FGC's Certified Nursing Assistant Program Serves as a Foundation for Students Entering the Nursing Profession

By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

Spring 2023 marked the return of Florida Gateway College's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program after a seven-year hiatus. The inaugural class was launched with five ambitious students who each conveyed their career goals post completion of the CNA program. In addition to working as a CNA, many of the students have plans to continue their education in phlebotomy and practical nursing. Rebecca McDaniel, CNA Instructor and Coordinator said, "As an instructor, I feel confident that the students will be prepared to care for patients and residents without hesitation based upon one fundamental principle that they have been taught: Do no harm." McDaniel continued, "Our students will use their training to help the sick by applying ethics, ability, and their intelligence, but never with an intent to injure."

After several weeks of didactic instruction, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) students are able to practice their skills in the simulation lab and at local hospitals like the Lake City VA Medical Center. CNA student, Dan'Ajiah Reed said, "I've liked the more hands-on approach to learning. It's been really fun."

Upon graduating from the Certified Nursing Assistant program, Dan'Ajiah plans to continue her pursuit of becoming a pediatrician. She expressed that the program has provided an excellent foundation to a career in nursing and has made her even more confident for the journey ahead.

Florida Gateway College's Nursing Assistant (Articulated) certificate program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, competencies, and requisites needed to become a certified nursing

assistant (CNA). The program is composed of two (2) courses designed to meet challenging academic standards that will prepare students for employability. The courses of (HSC 0003) Basic Healthcare Worker and (HCP 0121C) Nurse Aide and Orderly combine classroom instruction and skills/simulation to prepare students for clinical practice in long-term healthcare and other healthcare settings.

**"... I RECOMMEND
TAKING THE NURSING
ASSISTANT
PROGRAM.**

— Dan'Ajiah Reed, CNA
Student



For more information about the Certified Nursing Assistant program, contact Rebecca McDaniel rebecca.mcdaniel@fgc.edu or visit us online at <https://www.fgc.edu/academics/programs/health-sciences/nursing-assistant-articulated/>.



Students of the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing program engage in simulation activities.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Faculty and Student Share the Evolution and Impact of FGC's Nursing Simulation Lab

By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

Staying abreast with current practices and technologies are vital for a successful Simulation program. FGC's Department of Nursing and Health Sciences' Simulation Lab is no stranger to ongoing evolution. Sarah White, Skills Lab and Simulation Coordinator, reported that the Simulation Lab moved from the Granger Hall dormitory to a new, but temporary, residence in Building 004. The move has given the simulation department more room to grow, granted greater space for the addition of beds with brand new simulators, and created double occupancy patient rooms where students can now provide care for two patients simultaneously during their simulation experiences. There is also a great anticipation for the arrival of the lab's new LifeCast manikins – top-rated medical

manikins that will allow for realistic and transformative medical training.

Additionally, White reported that simulation faculty along with department administrators have recently toured simulation centers at local colleges and universities to gather design ideas and recommendations for improvement. White said, "These tours have been great opportunities for us to determine how we can best suit the needs of our students and ensure effective and realistic simulation experiences to prepare them for entry into the healthcare workforce."

"As always, it is so exciting to observe how our students continue to develop their critical thinking and prioritization skills in the simulation environment as they progress through their classes, skills practice, and clinical rotations," said White. "Our aim is to

continuously improve and enhance our simulation lab activities to increase student engagement and enthusiasm by providing direct patient care in a safe yet realistic, simulated healthcare environment."

Allyson Tummond, Associate in Science Degree in Nursing student and President of FGC's Student Nursing Association, shared her perspective of the Department's enhanced simulation activities and the role engagement plays in impacting the overall learning experience for nursing students:

Simulation lab has been an important part of my nursing education. One of the biggest advantages of SimLab is that it allows us to start developing clinical judgment while simultaneously practicing our hands-on skills before we start working with real patients. It also brings the textbook to life by using case

studies relevant to what we are learning in class. This is beneficial to us as students because reading about something is very different from actually doing it. Sometimes a concept that seems so simple ends up being much more difficult in practice, and vice versa. SimLab also offers unique challenges similar to ones we face in the real clinical setting, such as working under pressure, collaborating with other members of the patient care team, as well as thinking both critically and creatively.

Tummond continued:

As a future nurse, one of my biggest fears is a patient getting hurt while

under my care, whether it's directly or indirectly. Having a technologically advanced SimLab and supportive instructors has greatly increased my confidence as a student and it definitely translates over to the clinical setting where I am working with living, (actually) breathing patients. While nothing can truly replace the real thing, practicing patient care in a controlled, simulated environment allows for us to learn, grow, and above all make mistakes without causing real harm.

Nursing simulation will continue to evolve even as FGC makes plans to break ground with the development of a new simulation building on its main campus.

“SIMLAB ALSO OFFERS UNIQUE CHALLENGES SIMILAR TO ONES WE FACE IN THE REAL CLINICAL SETTING.

– Allyson Tummond, ASDN Student



For more information about the Simulation Lab, contact Sarah White at sarah.white@fgc.edu or visit us online at <https://www.fgc.edu/academics/programs/health-sciences>.

Congratulations Spring/Summer 2023 Graduates!

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Nursing

Courtney Shae Baldwin
Melissa Marie Buhler
Shirley Ann Collins
Farrah DeAnn Davis
Rebecca Jean Dean
Tiffany Lee Ellis
Asheton Hanna Gaylard
Lacey Dawn Geiger
Lucita Abrigana Herb
Emilie Renee Hodges
Brenda Lee Hogan
Misty Dawn Hysmith
Kyndell Brianna King
Shelby Michaela King
Danyal Lasha Langford
Melanie Nicole Luke
Amy Leigh McCray
Shayla Marie Murray

Julie Alane Nettles
Michelle Lee Padin
Mittal Raju Patel
Melissa Rhoades
Amber Victoria Sauls
Evan Curtis Scott
Ashley Rose Thompson
Autumn DeLain Tomlin
Stephanie Carolina Tucker
Kylee Rae Tuttle
Amber Nicole Whitehead
Ryan O'Neil Wiggan
James Farron Wood, II
Briann Hart Zimmerman

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Nursing

Bernadette Teresa Allen
Chelsea Lynn Covington
Michaela Serena Goodrich
Katelyn Ashley Higginbotham
Naomi Danielle Holland
Dustin Andrew Lee
Jessica Lynn O'Neill
Andrea Elizabeth Ransom
Candice Marie Sutton
Abigail Marie Thomas
Ruby Mardee Thornton
Ashlyn Brooke Townsend
Alona Renee Woodard

Health Information Technology

Anna Ruth Henderson-Wolf
Michelle Wright

Physical Therapy Assistant

Edwin Bailey Browning, IV
Karsyn Bailey Crews
Sarah Gene Douglas
Anna Marie Jeffries
Harley Rebecca Latham

CERTIFICATE

Practical Nursing

Makayla Cassidy Bennett
Tristen Tatum Byrd
Erikita Dominique Cherry
Shakeirra Shante Edwards
Kelly Lynn Elbert
Ashley Johnston
Alora Michele Keller
Allison Marie Keys
Haley Rianna Kilby
Corrine Elizabeth McAfee
Richelle Hope McDonald
Samantha Lynn Nipper
Meagan Taylor Peace
Alli Shae Pinner
Tanysha Natrayla Shaw
Meriah Nadine Stewart
Abigail Nicole Tuell
Caitlynn Leighanna White
Kristi Danielle Wilder
DeAnza Collene Ziegau



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: FACULTY & STAFF EDITION

*Nursing and Health Sciences' Faculty and Staff Share What Excites Them Most
About Starting a New Academic Year*

By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

It's the first day of the fall 2023 semester on FGC's campus, and things are off to a great start! After a warm and restful summer, the FGC campus parking lots are bustling with students eager to get to their first classes of the day. However, students are not the only ones excited to kick off this new and promising school year. Faculty and staff of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences entered their offices bright-eyed and anticipating fabulous days ahead.

Dr. Sandra Webb, Director of Testing and Remediation, shared that she loves seeing the excitement of new nursing students as they are starting to work

toward fulfilling their career goals as registered nurses. Dr. Webb expressed that she also looks forward to coaching returning students as they evolve from novice to expert healthcare practitioners.

Faculty and staff are also wildly excited to have students back on campus. Patricia Orender, Director of Associate in Science Degree in Nursing programs, said she is most excited about the fact that "our building now has over 200 students in it every day!... We are rocking and rolling for healthcare!"

Kimberly Givens, Assistant Professor of Nursing, spoke to the rapport she has built with her students since January 2023. "I am looking forward to seeing them again and

seeing what they have been doing," remarked Givens. Additionally, Kristeen Roberts, Clinical Director, said that she is most excited about having students back on campus and is looking forward to graduating three nursing cohorts this December.

Sarah White, Skills Lab and Simulation Coordinator, said "I'm looking forward to a new group of Foundations students coming into the lab and teaching skills from the beginning. I always enjoy that!" White also said that she is excited about FGC's plans for a new simulation building that will enhance student learning and create a more robust simulation experience. ■



MEET THE STAFF MEMBER

Get to know Jeannette Blackmon, Senior Staff Assistant of the Department of Nursing & Health Sciences

Where are you from? We have lived in Glen St. Mary for 30 years, moving here from Griffin, Georgia (you can't tell that by my accent though) 🤗. We moved to Florida when our two sons (Josh and Matthew) were young. We had no other family in Florida but my husband is a minister and we accepted a church to pastor.

What are your hobbies? Anytime and anywhere I am able to spend time with my family is the best "hobby"! We love spending time on the sugar white sands of the beach (preferably on the Gulf side), spending hours on end searching for shark teeth, sand dollars, starfish, and shells. We also search for the "white doves" that are found from broken sand dollars. There are actually five small doves located inside of each sand dollar.

What have been the proudest moments of your life so far? I will start with my husband and I. We just celebrated our 42nd Valentine's Day wedding anniversary back in February. Yes; we got married on Valentine's Day and he doesn't just get by with a box of candy! Because there is also an anniversary on that day, it means more than one gift! 😊 Secondly, the day I became a mother for the first time, after trying for years, was one of the GREATEST blessings ever! The birth of our oldest son Josh taught me what unconditional love was and still is! And when our second son Matthew was born, I knew that trying to be the absolute best Mama I could be to our sons gave me all the more reason to be there for my children, just the way my parents were for me. Finally, the day I became "GiGi" for the first time is a proud moment. To look into the eyes of our precious Olivia in that moment took my breath away. And when our second granddaughter Bianca was born, God gave us another precious gift. His blessings are great!

What has been one of the greatest lessons you've learned along your journey? Take nothing for granted. Because I believe we are not guaranteed tomorrow, I feel that if I could only do a small thing to help another person, it could very well be the answer to a prayer for them!

What does being an FGC staff member mean to you? Being in my position, I have seen MANY people come and go in our department. Through the years, I have been strongly encouraged to apply for other positions across campus, but with the bonds I have with "my peeps", I don't see me leaving them. That's not to say that I would never entertain an opportunity that God places before me.

Is there anything else you'd like to add? For those that do not know me, let me say I am just a simple "southern" girl with a very "southern" accent, and there's no mistaking it. 😊 I walk in His grace and mercy daily, and I would never intentionally do anything to hurt anyone. His grace is freely given and I try to give that grace to others. Always remember, we are all fighting a battle. My battle may be different than yours and yours may be different from the next person, but we are all fighting something.



TRAVELING TO TEXAS

Nursing faculty shares her experience at the 2023 ATI conference

By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Sandra Webb, Director of Testing and Remediation in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences, had the opportunity to attend the 2023 ATI National Nurse Educator Summit in San Antonio, Texas. The Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. ATI is the educational testing platform that is currently used for the associate in science degree in nursing (ASDN) and practical nursing (PN) programs.

Webb reported, "This year's summit focused on current trends occurring across the nation in nursing programs and how we as nurse educators and leaders can work together to improve student learning outcomes (SLOs) and end-of-program student learning outcomes (EPSLOs)." "It was interesting to hear that the trends discussed were also areas of focus at FGC," said Webb.

Three themes were discussed in great detail during the summit: Early Recognition, Remediation, and Student Retention. Early recognition topics included pre-program orientation assignments, identifying learning styles, and learning how to read NCLEX style questions. Webb shared that FGC currently has a Pre-Program Success Strategies Course for nursing and health science students. Secondly, remediation discourse included identifying students' learning and comprehension gaps, test-taking strategies and techniques, exam reviews, and remediation assignments. Thirdly, presentations about student retention focused on determining why students are not successful in their nursing programs. Some of the identified contributors to a lack of success were anxiety, fear of failure, learning and reading deficits, lack of support, and financial issues.

Webb shared that the experience was enriching and she remarked, "I am so appreciative of the opportunity to attend the conference, and I am grateful to be a part of an organization that promotes professional development." ▪

“A DAY IN THE LIFE...”

FGC’s HIT Programs Partner with Mayo Clinic to Provide Virtual Professional Coding Experiences



Advanced Medical Coding students and faculty along with two coding staff of Mayo Clinic smile for a photo during their virtual “A Day in the Life...” session.

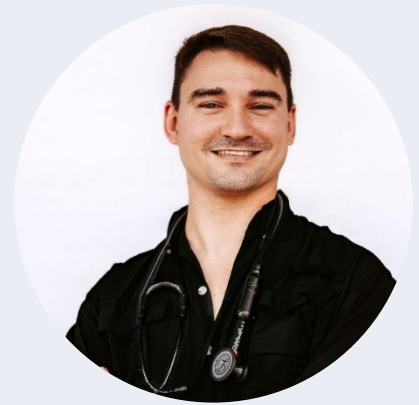
By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

In the realm of education, there are few things more exciting than when a guest speaker joins a class. The anticipation builds students' curiosity and the classroom atmosphere becomes charged with a unique energy. In addition, it's an opportunity for students to step out of their usual routines and textbooks, and into the real world of practical knowledge and expertise.

During the spring 2023 semester, students from FGC’s Advanced Medical Coding class (HIM 2283) welcomed members of Mayo Clinic’s coding staff into their virtual classroom for a four-part series titled, “A Day in the Life... of a Professional Coder.” The experience offered students real-world relevance and opportunities to interact with experienced professionals while gaining diverse perspectives of the field of health information technology and medical billing and coding.

Second-year Health Information Technology student, Jerry Kinard, shared, “One of the most enjoyable and educational events of my journey through the HIT program has been the ‘A Day in The Life’ series presented by Professor Denson in conjunction with Mayo Clinic.” “A live Teams meeting with seasoned, veteran coders and supervisors allows us to actually follow their daily routines and challenges. It’s the next best thing to on-the-job training,” said Kinard. Medical Coder/Biller student, Angela Crews, commented that the experience “...Provides exceptional insight for what to expect going into a new field of Medical Billing and Coding before you even finish college courses.”

Incorporating Mayo Clinic’s coding staff into the classroom is a practice that has breathed new life into the educational experience. It has exposed students to real-world perspectives, inspired them to excel, and broadened their horizons. Graduating Medical Coder/Biller student, Katherine Moody said, “These presentations helped me in thinking of what I would like and would not like to do as far as a career in Medical Coding and Billing.” To our HIT faculty and students, the staff of Mayo Clinic are not just visitors; they are catalysts for transformation, adding depth and vibrancy to the learning environment. As we continue to seek innovative ways to educate and inspire the next generation of health information professionals, partnering with Mayo Clinic will remain a cherished tradition. ▪



ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT:

Former Florida Gateway College Graduate Awarded “Best Primary Care Practice in the 352”

Twelve years ago, Logan Andrews stepped onto the Florida Gateway College (FGC) Campus and began his nursing education as a student in the Practical Nursing program. After working as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Cross City Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center for one year, Logan returned to FGC and enrolled in the FGC LPN-RN Fast Track Bridge program, receiving his Associate of Science Degree in Nursing (ASDN) in the fall of 2013. Logan continued his nursing education, enrolling at Jacksonville University in the spring of 2014 and earning his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Logan worked as a registered nurse and house supervisor at Tri-County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center during this time. After earning his BSN, Logan transitioned to the role of Director of Nursing from December 2015 until January 2021, where he directed patient care for the 81-bed skilled nursing facility.

Wanting to give back to the pre-licensure programs that provided his nursing foundation, Logan became an adjunct clinical instructor, supervising ASN students in various clinical settings. Committed to continuing his education, Logan enrolled in Purdue University Global Family Nurse Practitioner program. He received a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the fall of 2019.

Community-minded, Logan serves as the Long-Term Care Representative for the North Central Florida Healthcare Coalition, covering 18 counties in North Central Florida. Logan also serves as a Community Advisory Board Member for Haven Hospice, Chiefland, and is a Florida Gateway Colleges Nursing Advisory Council member.

Recently Logan opened Andrews Healthcare Consulting, LLC, which provides hospitalist services at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital and performs in-home primary care services, including acute and transitional care visits. This healthcare business works closely with home health companies to reduce re-hospitalization rates and keep high-risk patients comfortable in their homes. This practice was recently awarded “Best Primary Care Practice in the 352”. You may find out more about his consulting business at www.andrewshealthcareconsulting.com.

The Andrews family makes their home in Chiefland, Florida. Logan met his wife, Autumn, while working in Colorado. They have been married since 2017 and have three beautiful children. ▪

DN&HS Spotlights

COMMUNITY

Involvement

COLUMBIA COUNTY TORCH RUN



Florida Gateway College administrators along with faculty, staff, and students from the Law Enforcement division and Department of Nursing and Health Sciences gather for a photograph in front of the Columbia County Courthouse.

By EMILY DAVIS

Faculty and Staff from the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences department and various other departments from all across campus at Florida Gateway College participated in the 2023 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Columbia County on April 4, 2023. The Law Enforcement Torch Run aims to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Starting at the First United Methodist Church and walking through the heart of downtown Lake City, participants were able to pass by many acclaimed local businesses and shops, greet people with a smile and wave, and take in all the scenery that downtown has to offer, all while representing their support for a truly worthy cause. In the end, Florida Gateway College was able to raise a total of \$1,000 through merchandise sales to contribute to the funds of the Special Olympics. Kudos to the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty and staff who participated and took part in making a difference in the lives of those who needed it most. ▀

The Department of Nursing and Health Sciences encourages all students to be active in their community. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student, Jessica O'Neil, thought of a way to provide a wonderful service to her community on Valentine's Day in February 2023.

Jessica shared, "As a former long-term care nurse, I love to do small things for the elderly. Many are so lonely and do not have family members who visit, and it brings so much joy to see their faces light up over the smallest of gestures."

Jessica continued, "My favorite holiday is Valentine's Day, so I thought it would be fun for the BSN students to make treat bags to pass out to the residents of Ayer's Health and Rehabilitation Center (Trenton, FL) as they are one of our clinical partners."

Each bag included a heart shaped ornament made by local elementary school students and lots of delicious candy. Jessica said, "When I delivered the treat bags, the administration and the residents were so thankful. It definitely put a big smile on my face and reinforced my love for serving others."



Jessica delivering the Valentine's Day Bags to Ayer's Health and Rehabilitation staff.



Jessica's son helping to deliver the Valentine's Day bags.

HOSA EXPERIENCE DAY

DN&HS Faculty Host Fort White High School Students for HOSA Experience Day 2023

By DN&HS CONTRIBUTORS

On March 10, 2023, students from Fort White High School's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) association arrived at Florida Gateway College for Experience Day. The Department of Nursing and Health Sciences hosted 61 high school students and eight academic advisors. The large group was divided into four teams to allow for a more personalized, focused experience for each student. The students' first stop was a Geriatric "Senses" Simulation Activity conducted by Ms. Marie Barrett. Students then visited a Labor and Delivery Simulation hosted by Mrs. Sarah White, and concluded the day with an intradermal injection activity led by Ms. Patricia Orender. Excitement, smiles, and laughter filled the halls and classrooms as the activities went forth. Susan Espenship, Practical Nursing instructor, commented, "The students absolutely loved the simulations. Nursing truly made a mark in their minds."

In addition to the simulation stops, an overview of the many academic programs within the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences was presented by Practical Nursing instructor, Susan Espenship. Espenship's presentation spotlighted programs such as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Phlebotomy, Nursing Assistant, Health Information Technology (HIT), Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA), Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (RN track), and Practical Nursing, and provided salary outlooks and a list of hiring agencies in the area.

Espenship reported, "The students were engaged, attentive, and eager to learn about all we could offer. They asked questions during the presentations, discussed their interests, and were shown how to navigate the FGC website for more specific information on how to get started."

At the conclusion of the day's activities, students headed to The Grill for lunch on campus. "The day was truly enjoyable and we're looking forward to seeing them in the future as FGC students," said Espenship. ■



Students observe a presentation about the various health science programs offered at FGC.



Students engage in an intradermal injection activity.



Students witness a labor and delivery simulation.



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