

Meet the 2008 Doctor of Nursing Practice Inaugural Class

Ludella Brown MPH, MSN, NP-C

Della has served for the past several years as the Clinical Director and Nurse Practitioner of an organization, providing primary health services to the uninsured population of Chatham County in Savannah, GA. She is an active mentor for nurse practitioner students and was employed as part-time clinical faculty for the BSN and MSN nursing students. Most recently, she has taken a full-time position with a Family Practice physician in Pooler, Georgia. Upon completion of the DNP her objective is to assist in filling the gap of the uninsured population by establishing a nurse-managed healthcare center to improve health disparities within her community. Through collaborative efforts, she will build upon the current infrastructure to assist in addressing health issues which include diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. "Georgia Southern was selected because of its' vision of serving a diverse, ethnic community. The university is supportive of their students and offers an environment which exemplifies academic excellence."

J. Myron Faircloth MSN, FNP-BC

Myron graduated in 2002 as a family nurse practitioner from Brenau University has provided care in a Internal Medicine clinic until 2005 when he began practicing in rural family medicine in Nashville, GA. He is currently on faculty at Valdosta State University in the adult nurse practitioner program and continues part-time practice in the Nashville clinic. His goal upon completion of the DNP is to help change health care policy and improve patient access to providers in underserved, rural areas. "I chose Georgia Southern University because of their commitment to serving the rural population and the fact that GSU is a leader within the nursing field and their outstanding record in graduate nursing education."

Lee Hunter-Eades MSN, FNP-BC

Lee began her nursing career from Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing as a Diploma RN in 1982. Her BSN (1993, Summa Cum Laude) and MSN FNP are from Kennesaw State University. From 1998-2003 she provided in-patient and out-patient care, nursing home rounds, primary care, management of chronic problems at Dalton Family Practice. For several years she provided acute care management at both the Hamilton Medical Center ER and Valley Presbyterian Hospital ER. Since 2005 she has been an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Dalton State College and works with students at the Elbert Shaw Regional Youth Detention Center. The DNP will provide a broader educational experience for her nursing students and the ability to partner with local hospitals in scholarship activities. She chose the DNP program at GSU because of the "well-rounded program that provided an educational cognate."

Carmen Hill-Mekoba MSN, APRN-BC, CCM, COHN

As an APRN, Carmen has worked in the areas of occupational health and internal medicine. She owns her own business working with corporations to establish wellness initiatives for employees. In addition, she provides medical house calls to senior citizens who are physically unable to go into a provider's office for an examination. Upon obtaining the DNP degree, she plans to offer "medical house call" franchising opportunities to other nurse practitioners and physician assistants." I chose Georgia Southern because of the excellent reputation of the Family Nurse Practitioner program and because of the School of Nursing's commitment to healthcare initiatives that help to improve healthcare outcomes for underserved populations."

Knicole Lee MSED, MSN, FNP-BC

Knicole completed the family nurse practitioner program in July 2007. She has a graduate degree in education with a focus on persons with disabilities and earned the BSN in March 1994. She lives in southeast Georgia and serves rural populations in both private practice (internal/family medicine) as well as in an after-hours walk-in clinic setting. During her MSN program she began to develop a business plan for developing a unique clinic. The DNP will provide her the foundation to develop and implement N.I.C.K.E.L.S. Health Services for underserved rural populations with a focus on Children with Disabilities and their Families across the lifespan. "I have had great past experiences with two other graduate degrees at Georgia Southern. The School of Nursing offers well rounded, talented and supportive faculty with innovative methods of delivery for their graduate programs."

Kim Lingerfelt MSN, FNP-BC, CNN-NP

Kim has worked in Nephrology since completing the APRN as a family nurse practitioner at UTC in 1998. She was the first NP in the area to work in nephrology. She developed the protocols for the hemodialysis patients in the out-patient dialysis centers in Chattanooga. After 6 years in the dialysis clinics, she joined the nephrology group to expand the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) clinic. She continues to follow over 100 hemodialysis patients in addition to pre-dialysis patients. Kim has experience in conducting research studies in the dialysis unit for treatment of anemia, hyperparathyroidism, and infection. Post completion of the DNP she plans to continue to practice in nephrology with a focus on improving outcomes through additional research. The practice is committed to research and continues to focus on studies to prevent or identify early risk factors for CKD. "I chose GSU for the convenience of the on-line program and the clinical focus in nursing with the doctorate degree. I am very excited and impressed with Georgia Southern and the faculty."

Kay Lynn Olmsted MSN, FNP-BC

Kay Lynn has been a family nurse practitioner for 27 years. For 14 of those years, she worked independently in a nurse practitioner practice providing primary care. She is now working in a family practice office with a physician and another nurse practitioner in rural South Carolina. Past work experiences encompass positions in a school based NP center, working as a NP in a multi physician practice in metro Atlanta, serving in nursing management, and being a clinical instructor in a BSN program. She has have been active in her community starting an asthma camp, conducting asthma screenings and education, and founding the Golden Corner Advanced Practice Professionals group which provides monthly educational meetings for nurse practitioners. The DNP will provide her the ability to continue in clinical practice while addressing community health needs in more depth. She will utilize information yechnology to improve health outcomes for the independent elderly patient and role model for NP students as a preceptor. " I chose the Georgia Southern University DNP program as the course competencies are congruent with national guidelines, the program is on-line which allows me to continue working while pursuing my degree, and the high national ranking of the School of Nursing which reflects its commitment to scholarship and nursing excellence."

Susan Riley MN, FNP-C

Susan has been a family nurse practitioner since 1980. Her practice areas have included teaching, research involvement and clinical practice for 12 years at university settings such as the National Institute of Health, the Medical University of South Carolina, George Washington University, and Georgia Southern University. For the past 16 years she has been in practice with her husband in their own private practice which she helped to develop and establish. The DNP will allow her to continue to incorporate practice based research in the practice and to provide increased clinical education of FNP's (the Curtis Hames approach). Susan chose Georgia Southern because of "their reputation for high quality nursing education and the availability of Web CT."

Joy Scarborough MSN, FNP-C

Joy has a diverse back ground in many fields of nursing to include positions in public health, obstetrics, pediatrics, emergency and as a hospitalist . With her interest in forensic nursing she has provided service in the federal prison system and as the sexual assault nurse examiner [SANE] in her community. The DNP will provide the foundation to improve rural health and to effect health policy changes directed toward vulnerable populations such as migrant workers and those experiencing barriers to health care. "Georgia Southern allows me to function as a full-time student without neglecting my responsibilities as a full-time wife, mom, and nurse practitioner. The graduate nursing program has a reputation for producing students that not only have outstanding skills in nursing, but also serve as mentors for future nursing generations."

Michael Scott MSN, FNP-BC

Mike has been an nurse practitioner in community health in a large urban area in addition to being a long time primary care provider and co-director of a nurse managed clinic in a smaller rural area in northwest South Carolina. He has taught in an NP program and is currently on the staff of Duke University's School of Nursing where he is responsible for implementing financially viable nursing models of care to serve the local community. The DNP will give him new tools to use in the clinical arena to become a more knowledgeable and innovative provider of care. This degree will open doors for him as a possible Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, a Division Chief for Advanced Practice at a tertiary care center, or as an educational consultant for APRN program development. "Georgia Southern has a solid track record of producing very committed and skilled nurse practitioners, many of whom return to rural areas to provide much needed care to their communities. Georgia Southern's nursing programs have given me a foundation for professional success and the faculty, over the years, has continued to push me towards my highest potential. With this in mind, I wanted to return one last time to obtain nursing's terminal degree at the educational institution which continues to have my respect, my trust, and my admiration."

Jan Smith MN MPH FNP-BC

Jan has 22 years of experience as a family nurse practitioner working in primary care and with long term psychiatric children and adolescents. She serves the community as a member of the Board of Health. The DNP will improve her ability to be a better advocate for her psychiatric patients. Her goal is to continue to provide direct care while obtaining a multitude of needed mental health resources through legislation and grant activities. "I chose Georgia Southern for many reasons, the extremely positive learning environment, the flexibility of an online program and the high academic standard of the university and the School of Nursing."

Linda Upchurch MSN, ANP-BC, CHPN

Linda works with an adult population in rural Georgia providing primary care and wellness services and is a clinical instructor in the undergraduate nursing program at Georgia Southern. Upon receipt of the DNP, she plans to continue teaching and practicing as an APRN. "I chose GSU because of its outstanding reputation in graduate nursing. The faculty members are innovative thinkers and are leading the way in this new field. I am a BSN graduate of Georgia Southern. I'm excited to be a part of this first cohort!"