

## **Meet the 2009 Doctor of Nursing Practice Class**

### **Heike Arrowood MSN, RN, FNP-BC**

Heike graduated from Kansas Wesleyan University as a RN in 1999 and then earned a BSN in 2005 and MSN, FNP in 2007 from Georgia Southern University. She practices as a FNP at Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, GA providing acute and primary care for soldiers and their family members. "I chose Georgia Southern University because of excellent past experiences and for the convenience of the on-line program with a clinical focus in nursing of the DNP degree".

### **Mark Clark, MSN, FNP-BC, AOCNP, OCN**

Mark began his nursing career from Brenau College of Nursing in 1996, with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and has provided hospital care as a staff nurse and an Assistant Unit Director at Northeast Georgia Medical Center and community care through home health and hospice care. His career as an advanced practice nurse began with a Master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from North Georgia College and State University in 2001. In 2002, Mark was credentialed as an oncology certified nurse from the Oncology Nursing Society, and as an advanced oncology certified Nurse Practitioner in 2007. He has provided oncology care since 2004 at Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic in Gainesville, Georgia. As a result of his involvement in both the local and national chapters of the Oncology Nursing Society, Mark serves as president-elect of the Lanier Chapter of the society in his hometown. Upon completion of the DNP program at Georgia Southern University, Mark plans to continue providing care to patients in need of oncology or hematology care. "I chose Georgia Southern University to continue my education, because of the excellent reputation of the nursing program, and the convenience of an online class format."

### **Crystal M. Edds, MS, RN, CPNP**

Crystal began her nursing career in 1997 with an Associate degree from Kennesaw State University. Her nursing experience includes several years at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as well as with a large pediatric GI group. In 2003, she earned a MS with an emphasis on Child Health from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. As a certified PNP, she has provides care to pediatric patients with GI concerns within both the in-patient and out-patient setting. She is an Assistant Nursing Professor at Middle Georgia College since 2007 educating students about their role as a pediatric nurse. "The DNP at Georgia Southern will allow me to expand my knowledge as a practitioner and an educator. I plan to share my discoveries in evidenced based practice with my students as well as using it in my own practice. In the future, I am hoping the DNP will allow me to create an environment in which the educator role and the practitioner role can be combined".

### **Alison H Edie, RN, MSN, FNP-BC**

Alison earned her BSN from the Medical College of Georgia, School of Nursing Athens in 1984 and began her nursing career in the Medical ICU at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She completed her MSN with the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in 1991. At Vanderbilt she focused on care of the underserved populations of Nashville. She has practiced in the areas of orthopedics, women's health, adult and pediatric primary care. She has practiced in large HMOs, private practices, and community health centers. Alison is currently practicing at Duke University in the area of pediatric allergy and immunology where she also has the dual function of research coordinator in food allergy clinical trials. She is also a clinical instructor in the ABSN and MSN programs at the Duke University School of Nursing. "I chose Georgia Southern's DNP program because of the commitment of several faculty to underserved populations and their strong national leadership presence in the areas of education and advanced practice. The curriculum forms students in leadership, research skills, and evidence based practice. The online format is designed for the full time practicing clinician, yet fosters collegial relationships among our classmates."

### **G. Nelson Hobbs, MSN, RN, FNP-BC**

Nelson graduated from a Family Nurse Practitioner program and has obtained national certification in the specialty. His nursing background is in emergency, family care, pain management and urgent care. Through working with his church, Nelson has served the community by providing free sports physicals to underprivileged children. He is employed full-time as a family nurse practitioner in an urgent care setting and provides clinical support to Clemson University by precepting nurse practitioner students. The DNP will allow me to use evidence based research to provide excellence in my practice. "I chose the DNP

program at Georgia Southern University because of their reputation for excellence in nursing education. The education electives will allow me to eventually transition from practice to a classroom situation.”

**Cathy Stepter, MSN, RN ACNS-BC, CNE**

Cathy graduated in 2001 from Arkansas State University as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, and has functioned as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis, TN since 2004. She attained certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Health in 2005, and certification as a Nurse Educator in 2009. Cathy helped to write and served as the lead faculty for “Mentoring for Student Success” a program that was grant funded by the Foundation of the National Student Nurses Association. She has precepted graduate students from various Master’s level nursing education programs. Cathy chose Georgia Southern University’s online DNP program because of the pace of the program and its fit with her priorities as a mother and full-time educator. “I am excited about the future of nursing with the role of the DNP and the endless opportunities available to advance the nursing profession.”

**Karon Stone, MSN, RN, FNP-BC**

Karon graduated in 1997 as a Master’s prepared FNP from Georgia Southern University. She worked 4 years in Endocrinology, 6 years in Hematology and Oncology receiving certification as a Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner. Her current position is with the Veterans Administration in Dublin, GA certified as a Compensation and Pension Examiner. Karon is excited about the opportunity of learning utilizing this on line program while she continues to works full time. “ I feel that the Georgia Southern DNP Program will broaden my leadership, communication, critical thinking skills while expanding my expertise as an Advanced Practice Nurse. I am confident this degree will better prepare for what the future holds”.

**Paula Tillman, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC**

Paula recently graduated from an Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist program and has received national certification in the specialty. Her nursing background includes critical care, hospice, and disaster nursing. During graduate work, she developed an educational program to prepare nurses to provide care during extreme conditions. Through service with the American Red Cross, Paula has provided care to the community during national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. She has been a clinical instructor in a BSN program and has recently embarked on a full-time career as a nurse educator. The DNP will allow her to pursue excellence in clinical practice utilizing evidence-based research. “I chose Georgia Southern’s DNP program because it offers a unique balance of research and clinical application. The elective component of this program will allow me to take courses in nursing education that will help me to transition patient-centered care from the bedside to the classroom”.

**Angela Thompson, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC**

Angie received her BSN from Armstrong State College (now Armstrong Atlantic University) in Savannah, Georgia in 1994. Her nursing background is in community health. In 2001, Angie received her MSN/FNP from Georgia Southern University. She has practiced as a nurse practitioner in family practice, internal medicine, geriatrics, and emergency settings. She is currently employed by the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University as the director of nursing clinics and as a clinical instructor in the baccalaureate nursing program. Angie feels that the DNP program, because it is a practice doctorate, will help her to move to the next level in her professional practice by enhancing her understanding of the generation and application of evidenced based research and empowering her, through knowledge and experiences, to assume a greater leadership role within the profession. “I chose Georgia Southern’s DNP program because of the excellent reputation that the graduate school of nursing enjoys within the nursing, as well as the broader healthcare community.”