Anderson Regional Health System is pleased to announce that Dr. Keith Everett has been named Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

“Dr. Everett has been a part of the Anderson medical staff for more than 30 years. The long-standing relationships he has built with his peers, the Executive Team and Board of Directors are an excellent foundation for his role as Chief Medical Officer. We are exceptionally fortunate to have someone of Dr. Everett’s caliber assume the critical role of CMO for the health system and assist us in working arm-in-arm with our patient care teams on the continuous improvement and advancement of patient care,” said John G. Anderson, President and CEO.

Everett said, “I’m excited about the opportunity to serve Anderson Regional Health System in this capacity. I look forward to working with the Medical Staff and employees as we strive to make Anderson the best health system in the state of Mississippi.”

Before joining Anderson, Everett specialized in medical and surgical ophthalmology for 34 years with Meridian Ophthalmic Associates. After retiring from his practice, he served as Medical Director for Mississippi Affiliated Health Network, a physician-led alliance of healthcare professionals working to improve health for people across the state.

Everett’s post-secondary education began at East Central Junior College where he played basketball and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He then received a Bachelor of Arts from University of Mississippi. Everett attended medical school at University of Mississippi School of Medicine where he was named Medical Student of the Year in 1979. He completed an Internship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center, followed by a residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center that included Ophthalmology Science training at Stanford University Medical Center.

Everett is a member of the Mississippi State Medical Association and American Academy of Ophthalmology, and he serves on the Board of Directors for Meridian Museum of Art. He and his wife, Darlene, have two sons.
Expert pediatric specialty care is closer to home for children and families in the Meridian area, thanks to a collaborative effort between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Anderson Regional Health System.

Leaders in medicine, business and government cut the ribbon on a new Children’s of Mississippi specialty clinic adjacent to Anderson Regional Medical Center during a ceremony in February.

“This is a celebration of the fearfully and wonderfully made,” said John G. Anderson, President and CEO of Anderson Regional Health System. The clinic, he said, is the result of two years of collaboration with UMMC and Children’s of Mississippi, the branch of UMMC that includes all pediatric care including Batson Children’s Hospital.

Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children’s of Mississippi, said putting specialty care within reach of families in the Meridian area is part of the organization’s vision of helping children in the state reach their full potential.

“Children’s of Mississippi caregivers value the trust families place in us, and we are honored to work with Anderson Regional Health System to bring the best in specialty care to Meridian and the surrounding community.”

Children’s of Mississippi pediatric specialists in orthopaedics, neurology and urology began caring for patients at the Meridian clinic in late 2018. Additional specialties to be added this year include cardiology, hematology/oncology, child development, genetics, endocrinology, general surgery, psychiatry and the Child Safe Center.

One of the patients soon to be receiving care at the clinic is Anna Armstrong. She’ll be seeing Dr. Onyekachukwu Osakwe in Meridian when pediatric cardiology will be available at the clinic later this year.

“Having cardiology care so close to home will be convenient,” said Anna’s mother, Kristen Armstrong. “It’s wonderful that this will be offered here in Meridian.”

Dr. Joe Anderson, Anderson Regional Health System’s Chairman of the Board, agreed. “This virtually guarantees better health care for our children,” he said.

Meridian Mayor Percy Bland welcomed Children’s of Mississippi specialists to the city. “The heart and soul of our city is the delivery of health care,” he said. “I’ve been up and down I-20 many times to see children of friends and family at Batson Children’s Hospital, and the care there is second to none.”

Health care, said Archie McDonnell, president of the East Mississippi Business Development Corp., “is a huge part of the regional economy.”

The clinic, at 1516 23rd Ave., is staffed by nurse Ashley Hester and medical office assistants Hayleigh Gardner and Karen Auton. Orthopaedist Dr. John Purvis and neurologists Dr. Tarif Bakdash and Muhammad Ubaidulhaq offer clinics each month.
With a growing focus on community partnerships, Anderson Regional Health System is more philanthropic-minded than ever before. To support and enhance these efforts, Anderson has recruited Christin Waters to assume the role of Director of Philanthropy.

John Anderson, President and CEO, said, “Waters’ knowledge, experience and established relationships throughout this area will enable us to more fully serve and support our patients and community, in essence, strengthening our goal of ‘Standing Together’ with our community.”

In addition to community outreach, one of Waters’ primary duties will be oversight of the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund. One hundred percent of the donations made to this important fund are used to assist local cancer patients with special needs not paid by insurance, such as transportation assistance, prosthesis, medicine assistance, lymphedema supplies and durable medical equipment.

Waters will also manage the development of several new fundraising initiatives designed to enhance various aspects of the organization. The Standing Together Fund is a general fund that assists in advancing technology and services, acquiring state of the art medical equipment, and improving and building necessary facilities.

A pediatric fund, It’s All About Kids, enhances, upgrades and supports pediatric services. Donations made to the Guardian Angel Fund are tribute gifts made in honor of a physician, nurse or staff member and will assist with focused needs throughout the hospital.

Waters added, “The philanthropic funds I will be overseeing are a natural extension of Anderson’s mission to improve the quality of life for everyone in our area. It is an honor to undertake this part of the mission, and I look forward to letting everyone in our community know the importance of ‘standing together.’”

Prior to joining Anderson, Waters served as Community Development Senior Manager for American Cancer Society, where she maintained a portfolio of more than $2 million in fundraising efforts and markedly increased the organization’s presence in counties across the region. Waters also has past work experience in advertising, marketing, recruitment, sales and event planning.

Waters attended University of Mississippi where she received a Bachelor of Science in Family Consumer Science with a focus on Hospitality Management. Upon moving to Meridian, she immediately became involved in the community and has held memberships and leadership positions in numerous organizations including Junior Auxiliary, Young Professionals of Meridian, Meridian Symphony League, Hope Village Guild and Habitat for Humanity.

Waters and her husband Josh, Vice President of Waters International Trucks, Inc., have a four-year-old daughter, Callie.
2019 Medical Staff Officers Announced

Jennifer Rodriguez, MD
Chief of Staff

Muzaffar Rahat, MD
Secretary

Daniel McKiever, MD
Chief of Surgery

Hatem Mourad, MD
Chief of Medicine

William Billups III, MD
Vice Chief of Staff

John Blackwell, MD
Past Chief of Staff

John Anderson (left) presented Dr. William A. Billups III a shadow box filled with memorabilia about the KIMBR HII kit for “massive bleeding” the late Dr. William A. Billups Jr. and a team of trauma nurses developed. The kit was developed as a response to research that showed how the control of bleeding could play a substantial role in saving those injured in a traumatic event. The team created a kit with a tourniquet and other necessary items, along with a training program, that has been distributed to teachers and law enforcement officers since they are often the “first responders” at an accident prior to the arrival of emergency medical services. The state of Mississippi awarded a $400,000 grant to support state-wide distribution of the “Bleeding Kit” with an education component.
Celebrating Retirement

Congratulations to Sue Followay on her retirement after serving Anderson for 41 years. Sue began her career at the switchboard and then transferred to the insurance department where she served as an Insurance Billing Coordinator in the Revenue Cycle department. Sue is with John G. Anderson, President and CEO.

Congratulations to Amy Odom, RN, who retired after 32.5 years of working with the cardiac surgery team. Amy is with John G. Anderson, President and CEO.

Dr. Caleb Dulaney, Radiation Oncologist, spoke to Rotary Club about all of the innovative things happening at Anderson Regional Cancer Center, including RayStation with conventional linear accelerators and the TomoTherapy System, a highly advanced radiation treatment.
It’s not every day that you see a dog in a patient’s room, but therapy dog Stella and her handler, Rebecca Pearson, are bringing cheer to patients, staff and everyone they encounter at Anderson.

“Interaction with therapy dogs has been shown to be very beneficial for patients. The act of petting a dog is a stress reliever. It provides a calming effect that can lower blood pressure and diminish overall physical pain, in addition to putting a smile on the patient’s face,” said Dr. Scot Bell, Anderson Regional Health System’s Chief Medical Officer.

Stella, a three-year-old retired racing greyhound, was adopted by Dr. Eric and Rebecca Pearson from Alabama Greyhound Adoption in Birmingham. Pearson said she had always wanted a greyhound, and upon learning how well greyhounds performed as therapy dogs, it was a “match made in heaven.

Pearson continued, “Greyhounds have a calm, quiet nature and bond deeply and quickly. They also have a low maintenance coat which keeps them from carrying the typical dog odor. Stella’s social and leash training at the race track provided a quick and easy transition to service as a therapy dog.”

Pearson began the therapy dog certification process as soon as she brought Stella home. They started with basic obedience training followed by behavioral training necessary for certification by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD).

Pearson said, “Stella went through several months of training, and then she was tested for behavioral compliance around other dogs, people, loud noises, medical emergencies, wheel chairs and other medical equipment. We were observed as a team on three medical facility visits prior to receiving certification by ATD.”

When Stella is working, she proudly dons a red vest and collar tag with the ATD logo symbolizing her training and certification.

Continued on next page
Stella Brings Doggone Good Therapy to Anderson

Continued from previous page

Registered Nurse and Infection Preventionist Practitioner, Andrea Laird, is leading the therapy dog program to ensure compliance with infection control regulations. “Stella and Rebecca are essentially volunteers, so they have undergone the same onboarding process we require for our volunteers. This includes vaccination requirements as well as education on privacy practices and personal protection equipment. Rebecca has been educated on contamination precautions, places they are permitted and places that are prohibited to ensure we keep everyone safe.”

In addition, a Patient Representative accompanies Rebecca and Stella throughout their visits and ask each patient if they are interested in visiting with Stella prior to entering the room.

John G. Anderson, President and CEO of Anderson Regional Health System, said, “We are really excited to be Stella’s exclusive hospital partner. During their first visit, staff, patients and visitors welcomed Stella and Rebecca with open arms. There is no limit to the amount of happiness, comfort and reassurance you can give a patient, and we know Stella will have a big role in that.”

The therapy dog program is open to adult and pediatric inpatients at Anderson-North and Anderson-South, patients at Anderson Regional Cancer Center and outpatient therapy patients.
The Council on Accreditation Committee of the Mississippi State Medical Association has awarded Anderson Regional Medical Center accreditation with commendation for our Continuing Medical Education program for physicians.

Standing, from left: Jason Cain, Connie Lee, Ronna Nichols, Dr. Cody Aull (Chair), Kristin Karrh, Brandye Vance and Kim Riley. Seated, from left: Melissa Ellis, Trinity Farr, Dr. Robert Berg, Holly Moore and Jennifer Bell. Not Pictured: Dr. Scot Bell, Dr. James Wallace, Dr. William Billups III, Wanda Cooper, Andrea Laird, Terri McKelvaine, Shey Washburn and Kathy Swartzfager.

Anderson Wins Value Cycle Excellence Award

The average 350-bed hospital misses $22 million in revenue capture opportunities. That’s why hospitals and health systems need proven resources to identify opportunities as well as risks. Craneware’s value cycle experts and innovative technology provide the transparency needed to elevate revenue cycle operations.

Craneweare’s Chargemaster Toolkit® – named by KLAS as No. 1 in the Revenue Cycle – Chargemaster Management market category for 12 of the past 13 years and an HFMA Peer Reviewed solution – addresses this issue with chargemaster management automation that helps eliminate variances in data and prevents revenue leakage. Chargemaster Toolkit is a flexible, easy-to-use solution that continually updates chargemaster data to ensure ongoing charge accuracy and consistency.

Each year, Craneware selects clients for recognition with the Value Cycle Excellence Award. Anderson Regional Medical Center won the Chargemaster Maintenance Excellence Award for 2018. It was achieved through Craneware Chargemaster Best Practice metrics, including utilization and ongoing accuracy of the Chargemaster.
Dr. Mark Elliott and the staff of Anderson Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center kicked off American Heart Month by wearing red for National Wear Red Day.

Twenty-four community members took part in the 2019 Healthy Heart screening held at Anderson. From left, CT Techs Derek Griffin and J. Paul Everett check patients using the HeartSaver CT scan.

Community members had the chance to have their hearts checked during the 2019 Heart Check. Eliza Coates (right) has her blood drawn by Marilyn Bell. The event featured free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings as well as weight and Body Mass Index (BMI).
Dr. Hans Tulip (above, center) attended the Trauma Advocacy Day at the State’s Legislature in January. He, along with other trauma health care providers, provided education on the trauma system and the “Stop the Bleed” program.

The National Certification Corporation has announced that Felecia Boston Brown, CNM, has achieved a NCC national credential as a Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner. The credential is earned by meeting educational and/or practice requirements and taking a rigorous exam that covers the specified specialty areas. Brown joins more than 100,000 health care professionals who have earned the prestigious credential since 1975. Maintenance of the credential is required every three years and involved a continuing competency assessment and earning continuing education.

Cassandra Gibbs, Nurse Manager, Oncology was selected to participate in the 2019 Mississippi Nurses Foundation Leadership Institute. Selection in this institute continues MNF’s legacy of supporting nurses and the future of nursing throughout the state of Mississippi. The MNF was established by the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) in 1982 and administers scholarship, educational support, continuing education (CE), nursing research, health promotion and professional development.
The security force at Anderson Regional Health System completed semi-annual firearms qualification and annual Taser recertification training at the Meridian Lauderdale County Public Safety Training Facility in February. Security Officers are required to complete an NRA Approved Law Enforcement qualification course with NRA Law Enforcement instructors. Officers are required to demonstrate proficiency in firing skills, safe handling of weapons, proper weapon retention techniques, safely loading and unloading weapons, cleaning of weapons, use of force continuum policy and other firearm related safety procedures. Members of American Protection Services hold their officers to the same standards as local and state law enforcement officers and this course of fire is the same course that local and state law enforcement officers are required to complete. Annual Taser recertification was also completed, which included a classroom portion and live fire portion.

Exterior walls on several Anderson campuses received much-needed cleaning and painting updates, including Anderson Regional Cancer Center and this exterior on 14th Street.

All classes will be held in the Auditorium at Anderson-North.

**April 10**
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**May 8**
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**June 5**
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**June 19**
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Anderson Regional Cancer Center’s Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund recently received a donation of $1,075 from “Team Tina” in memory of daughter, sister and friend, Marsha “Tina” McMillan. Shown presenting the check is Doris McMillan, Tina’s mother.

Cassandra Gibbs (left) presents Ginny Ruffin $600 for the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund that was raised from a recent T-shirt sale sponsored by the 4-East team.

Officers of the West Lauderdale High School Student Council brought snack baskets to the ICU/CCU waiting area as part of their January service project. From left: Kaleb Walters, Brooks Hull, McKenzie Morgan and Karson Cook.

The Women of the Moose Chapter 1441 donated $200 to the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness.
Anderson Health and Fitness Center has earned the Centers for Disease Control’s Preliminary Recognition for their Diabetes Prevention Program, which seeks to address type 2 diabetes before it starts.

General Manager, Adam Hodges, said, “This comes after a year of hard work and opens up the door for more people to join the program. Last year we had 28 people, and we are expecting the program to continue growing year after year. More than 86 million people in the United States have pre-diabetes, and we are on a mission to change the statistics.”

In a letter addressed to Hodges, Ann Albright, PhD, RDN, Director of the Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC, said, “It is immensely gratifying to see the science of diabetes prevention being implemented to improve the public’s health. You and your colleagues should be extremely proud of this accomplishment. It is programs like yours that are turning the tide in the fight against the epidemic of type 2 diabetes. Thank you for all that you are doing and for your commitment to reducing the preventable burden of diabetes in the U.S.”

Through the Diabetes Prevention Program, the Health & Fitness Center is working to help people stop the progression of pre-diabetes into type 2 diabetes through proper diet, exercise and education. This one-year program gives participants access to all of the center’s amenities, plus educational sessions on relevant health topics, consultations with a Registered Dietitian and instruction from certified personal trainers.

In the photo above, Hodges leads the Diabetes Prevention Class in a discussion on how to make being active a way of life.

Anderson Health and Fitness Center is excited about a new partnership with Meridian Freedom Project to teach students about the benefits of an active lifestyle and healthy eating. At the Meridian Freedom Project, students complete a Fellowship before they graduation from high school, and the goal of the program is for each of them to have as many choices for their futures as possible. The organization seeks to provide an achievement-oriented atmosphere where Freedom Fellows feel seen, heard, valued, and free to make choices. The program at the H&F Center is a natural extension of the Freedom Project mission.
The new Jeannie’s Place at Planet Playground was built by hundreds of volunteers in February and March and is nearing completion. This remarkable playground will include a swing for wheelchair users and a stainless-steel slide that children with cochlear implants can whisk down without worrying about static. Volunteers from Anderson were part of the effort, with staff from WorkHealth taking care of the First Aid tent and others helping with the actual build. From left are: Waylon Temple, Walter McLelland, Johnny Sowers and Daricek Shelby.

Anderson was proud to be a part of the 2nd Annual Allie Cat Run and Festival by staffing the First Aid tent. Pictured, above, from left, WorkHealth team members Courtney Wright, Ann Compton, Vanessa Walker and Libba Cooper. Staff from the Health & Fitness Center Fitness were also on hand helping to assist with the run.
May 9, 2018

Dear Dr. Anderson,

My name is Melba White, my sister’s name is Alma Makaffey. She has been a Type 1 diabetic since eighth grade, she is now 67 years old on Nov. 13th. The reason I am writing you is to tell you how much I appreciate the nurses, dietitians at the Diabetes Center. If not for these ladies over the last years my sister would more than likely not be here today. Years ago the doctors told my parents she would probably not live a long life, but diabetes education and research has proven them wrong. She is on an insulin pump and has been for years, due to the assistance of Terri and Venice I only need to call for help with any problem for help with her low or high blood sugars. If I can’t get the battery cap off the pump to replace a low battery, all I need to do is call, they have nurses put me off or said I’ll call you back always have been there for me and my sister. Just this week, M. Rahatt had to adjust her pump settings. She can no longer tell if she is low or high she checks her sugar 6 to 8 times daily. They are always kind to her and pick up her spirits up. I just wanted you to know her life is better because of them. I panic if they assure me she is doing the best she can because of being a diabetic for so long. I’m sure you get more letters about problems than letters of appreciation, but for me and my sister and many others that go through those doors at the center, I just want to say thanks for their great service to the community as a whole, and by the way, I’m type 2 myself.

Sincerely,

Melba White
Congratulations to former Anderson patient Jeremiah “Turbo” McKee, who was named freshman quarterback at the University of West Alabama. There was a time when Turbo questioned whether or not there was a point to playing football, considering the hardships he had already faced in his young life.

The West Lauderdale alumnus has been through a multitude of hardships in the past several years. He was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease in the 9th grade and developed an infection that required an IV drip daily — which he had at Anderson — and never missed a practice or a game. He also had colon reconstructive surgery, a torn ACL and lost his home in a 2017 tornado. But he persevered and is now playing for UWA.

Jessica Townsend, ORT, came up with the idea to provide our surgical pediatric patients with small stuffed animals for comfort during a time that might be scary for them. She developed the slogan #PlushesforPatients and has provided all of these stuffed animals with her own funds. Inspired by her efforts, others in the Surgery department have donated stuffed animals.
2019 Service Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the following departments that showed the greatest increase in their “rate this hospital” scores this quarter.

- 5-East
- Horizons Geri-Psych
- Children’s Medical Clinic
- EEG
Anderson continues to train staff in Lean practices. The core idea behind lean is maximizing customer value while minimizing waste — simply put, lean means creating more value for customers with fewer resources. The most recent Lean graduation class was: seated, from left: Kimberly Parker, Jason Dearman, Linda Ruffin and Kristi Walters. Standing, from left: Holly Moore, Fanci Vaughn, Renee Homan, Kevin Adams, Elisa Downing and Janice Murff. (Not pictured, Erin Nowell.)

The Central Sterile Processing profession is ever-evolving in the terms of surgical instrumentation, processing equipment and standard and best practices. To stay abreast of all these changes, it is essential that CS department professionals have ready access to the most current standards and guidelines and the ability to apply them. The International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management supports certification and recognizes it as an important component to patient safety. Anderson CSPD staff includes just such professionals who have recently attained the Certified Registered Central Service Technician certification. Above, from left: Brenda Hurn, Clemmie Green and Florence Wright.
Celebrating Doctors’ Day 2019
And the winners are...

Physician Oscars

The competition was fierce (and funny) but the Academy of Anderson voters came up with the top winners in each category.

Dr. Matt Cassell – Best Dressed
Dr. Daniel McKiever – Most Likely to Play a Doctor on TV
Dr. Dru Denison – Least Likely to Wear a Tie
Dr. Awad El-Ashry – Best Dancer
Dr. Ronnye Purvis – Most Likely to Win American Idol
Dr. Hans Tulip – The Voice That Could Calm Any Storm
Dr. Bobby Clark – The Smile That Can Cure Whatever Hurts
Dr. Muzaffar Rahat – Dr. Techie
Dr. Harry Durgin – Most Likely to Win on Survivor
Dr. Thomas Plavac – Class Clown
Dr. Hatem Mourad – Most Likely to be Late for a Meeting
Dr. John Halbrook – Most Likely to Post Winning this Award on Social Media
The annual Anderson Cup Road Race will be held April 20, and Anderson has challenged itself to have a winning departments for the in-house trophy.

In-house teams should know:

• Your team members have the option of doing either the 5K or the 2-Mile Walk. Points will be awarded for participation and completion for either of these events. Points will also be awarded for how team members place in these events. So it is definitely to a team’s advantage to have as many participants as possible.

• Submit your team roster to Adam Hodges in the Health & Fitness Center and then register online. In-house teams will get a discount code to apply to the registration fee.

Anderson Heath & Fitness Center is now offering POUND classes. This is a full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training, with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. If you are interested in producing a good sweat, sculpting your body and rocking out, then POUND is the class for you!

Rock Steady Boxing Class Helps Parkinson’s Patients

Anderson Health & Fitness Center has recently earned recognition as a Rock Steady Boxing Affiliate. The mission of Rock Steady Boxing is to empower people with Parkinson’s disease to fight back. Rock Steady Boxing gives people with Parkinson’s disease hope by improving their quality of life through a non-contact boxing based fitness curriculum.
Mission

To continue our heritage of healing and improving life for the people we serve.

Vision

To be the healthcare provider of choice.

Values

We recognize: Respect, Trust, Dignity and Responsiveness.

Linda Blakney-Moore, RN, started her career at Anderson in 1978 as a Nurse's Aide and she now serves as Charge Nurse on the Swing Bed Unit at Anderson-South. Her coworkers said, “Aside from Linda's duties as Charge Nurse, she serves as a preceptor to nursing students. She is such a good role model for them and takes the time to explain things while showing how much she cares about her patients. • Recently Linda noticed that our rapid response cart needed to be restocked, so she began a new routine of checking the cart daily to be sure it is always stocked. • She then suggested that we get a back-up cart to ensure we always have what is needed if an emergency arises.” In her spare time, Linda enjoys home construction and design projects and baking cakes. She and her husband, John,

Linda Bates is a Respiratory Therapist who has worked at Anderson for 15 years. Her coworkers said, “Linda goes above and beyond for her patients and coworkers. • She has a kind and loving heart and a grateful attitude towards her career. • Linda is quick to notice when someone needs help and she pitches in without being asked. • She often goes outside of her normal responsibilities to meet the needs of patients and family members.” In her spare time, Linda enjoys working in the yard, shopping and traveling. She has one son and three grandchildren.

April Bateman has worked at Anderson for nine years as an Analyst in the Health Information Management department. Her coworkers said, “April goes above and beyond to help other departments and conserve hospital resources. • During the last year, April has been hand-saving hand hygiene handouts that are left in the medical record, and she delivers them for reuse in other departments. This may not be a huge cost savings, but it is an example of her willingness to help in any way.” In her spare time, April enjoys watching her sons, Hunter and Neil, play sports, working in the community with Phi Delta Kappa and supporting the West Lauderdale booster club. She and her husband, Andrew, have been married for five years.
After a year of research and planning, Anderson Regional Health System has created a Professional Nurse Practice Council. This practice-driven team provides opportunity for discussion and decision making in relation to nurses’ professional practice and patient care issues. The Council consists of nurses from across the health system with each member representing the profession of nursing and serving as liaisons to their areas. Nurses identify opportunities for improving patient care and clinical practice. These observations allow the Council to provide oversight for development, review and revision of policies and procedures of standard nursing care. The Council will be assisting in the annual nursing competency skills workshops as well as developing and implementing a nursing peer review process.

Members of the first Council are: Front row, from left: Kelsey Chisolm (Co-Chair), Margaret Carter (5E), Ashley Hatcher (OR), Natalie Beddingfield (SDS), Stephanie Long (Quality/Secretary), Andrea Wells (Pain Management) and Keith Dickerson (Chair). Back row, from left: Deshuanda Hopson (IT), Julious Heidelberg (2E), Kayla Johnson (4E), Michelle Robinson (GI Lab), Julia Moore (ICU), Ashley Laird (CCU), Rea Brown (EDU) and Kim Yates (3E). Not pictured: Tim Cade (Tom Maynor Rehab Center), Brandie Culpepper (SB), Gina Gunter (Nursery), Stephanie Hatcher (Cath Lab), Krystal Palmer (ED), Colette Russell (TU), Rachel Thomas (RR) and Jamie Tucker (Float P).

Celebrating Health Info Professionals

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) honored and celebrated health information professionals during the 30th annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week in March. Using the theme “Driven by Health Data,” HIP members at Anderson drew for prizes and celebrate the week with students at MCC who are working to enter the field.

“While the healthcare ecosystem is constantly changing, health information professionals make it their priority to ensure high-quality data to enable better care for patients,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE.
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