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Eleven Employees Named To All Stars Team

Eleven area residents have recently been named to North Mississippi Medical Center's 2007 All Stars Team.

NMMC launched the "Stars On-Line" program in October 1999 to recognize employees who exhibit extraordinary care and concern for their patients, customers and co-workers.

The 2007 All Stars have been consistently recognized by their co-workers through Stars On-Line for stellar performance. Honored at the Nov. 2 All Stars luncheon were:

Sherry Alford, RN, of Houston, who works with the NMMC Home Health Agency's Pontotoc branch office. Alford joined the NMMC staff in 1998 and worked as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department and Float Pool before transferring to her current position in 2004. Alford attended Houston High School and Chickasaw Academy, as well as Itawamba Community College in Fulton and Regents College in Albany, N.Y. She earned an associate's degree in nursing in 1994.

"The best part of my job is being able to see patients' needs being met while remaining in the home, and working closely with the greatest team to achieve desired outcomes," Alford said.

Bettye Hill Coggin of Tupelo, who serves as an education specialist with the NMMC Education Department. Coggin joined the NMMC staff in 1981 and served as Director of

Education for 25 years. A graduate of Tupelo High School, Coggin holds an associate's degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College, a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a master's degree in education from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Coggin is a certified FranklinCovey Trainer for seven programs, a Basic Life Support instructor through the American Heart Association, a Certified Financial Management Trainer for the Dave Ramsey series, and a Certified Methodist Lay Speaker through the United Methodist Church.

"I enjoy the opportunity to observe the growth of NMMC staff through the years and see their advancement into higher levels of accountability," Coggin said. "I cherish the opportunity to share meaningful service in the healing ministry of this organization."

Marie Dendy, RN, of Ackerman, a resource nurse with the NMMC Home Health Agency's Eupora branch office. A graduate of West Point High School, she attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, and holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville. She was in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman for four years during the Vietnam era.

"The best part of my job is the people I care for and work with," she said.

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Robinson Selected As Clinics EOM For September

Candy Robinson has been chosen as the September Employee of the Month for North Mississippi Medical Clinics.

Robinson originally began work at Fulton Medical Clinic in March 2006 as an admission/discharge specialist and now serves as a medical assistant.

“Candy adds a spark to our staff with her compassionate smile and humility,” said office manager Amy Brown. “She is a highly trained and skilled worker who brings something much more valuable to us than her skills. She is always willing to help


anywhere in the clinic. We are blessed to have her here.”

Coworkers nominating Robinson stated that she is a dedicated employee who supports the mission, vision and values of North Mississippi Medical Clinics.

“She is a valuable part of our team who always displays a great attitude and has compassion for our patients,” the nomination stated. “She puts the patients first and maintains a humble attitude. She sets a good example for her team members.”

The Employee of the Month honor

recognizes employees with exemplary job performance and customer service skills, as well as community involvement.

Robinson and her husband Michael have two children, Haley Mabelle and Hannah Grace. They attend Providence Baptist Church where she teaches children’s church for ages 3-11. Robinson is involved in activities such as the former Buddy Bain Memorial Festival for Diabetes and Relay for Life. 



David Barber, North Mississippi Medical Clinics administrator, presents the Employee of the Month award to Candy Robinson, a medical assistant at Fulton Medical Clinic.

Support Pediatric Christmas Toy Drive

NMMC is hosting a Pediatric Christmas Toy Drive for children admitted during December, especially those hospitalized on Christmas Day. Employees are invited to bring a new toy to the Security Desk near the Food Court or to the Pediatric Unit on 4 East. For more information, call 377-4499 or 377-7536. The wish list includes: plush toys, blocks, puzzles, jewelry making kits, soft rattles, musical toys for infants and toddlers, action figures/transformers, Matchbox cars, doctor/nurse kits, Barbie and other dolls, musical Christmas toys, drawing/art kits

2007 Holiday Activities Schedule

- Dec. 11, 12, 13 Meal trays will be picked up and delivered to North Mississippi Medical Clinics and NMMC Home Health & Hospice branch offices.
- Dec. 12
- Baldwyn Nursing Facility day shift party: Noon.-2 p.m.
- Baldwyn Wellness Center day shift party. Time to be announced.
- Imaging Centers: Meal tray delivered to each location.
- Night Shift Parties:**
- Baldwyn Nursing Facility: Meal tray delivered at 11 p.m.
- Tupelo Central Facility: 10-11:30 p.m. (Heavy hors d'oeuvres).
- Women's Hospital: 8:30-10 p.m. (Heavy hors d'oeuvres in Café Express).
- Behavioral Health Center: 8:30-10 p.m. (Meal tray).
- Nurse Link: 10-11:30 p.m. (Meal tray).
- Dec. 13
- IMA-Tupelo: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Meal tray/hot food).
- Women's Hospital: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Classroom A/B. Includes employees of the Child Care Center.).
- Surgery Center will pick up meal.
- Behavioral Health: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (Includes Service Center and new SPD warehouse employees).
- Meal trays will be delivered at 11 a.m. to Breast Care Center, Center for Digestive Health, Clinic Administration, Employee Pharmacy, Family Medicine Residency Center, Outpatient Infusion, Longtown Medical Park (Longtown Imaging, Neurosurgery Clinic, Physiatry, Pain Management and Outpatient Rehabilitation).
- Tupelo and Pontotoc Wellness Centers: Trays will be delivered to both locations.
- Dec. 14
- Central Facility: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Heavy hors d'oeuvres).

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“What I love most about my job is the blessing of doing God’s work in my life through nursing.” Dendy joined the NMMC staff in 1996.

Becky Easley of Shannon, who serves as a medical technologist with the NMMC Pathology Department. Easley joined the NMMC staff in 1978. She graduated from Tupelo High School and received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. She also attended the NMMC School of Medical Technology and is certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

“What I love most about my job is working alongside my work family every day,” Easley said. “My co-workers are family and friends. I really enjoy working with these professional people.”

Stephen Hernandez of Tupelo, who is a system analyst with the NMMC Home Health Agency. Hernandez joined the NMMC staff in 1995, transferring to his current job in March 2006. A graduate of Redemptorist Sr. High in Baton Rouge, he received his associate’s degree in computer programming from ICC.

He says his favorite part of working at NMMC is the people with whom he works.

Pam Hodges, RN, of Tupelo, who is a nurse educator with NMMC’s 3 West oncology unit. Hodges joined the NMMC staff in 1979. A graduate of Mooreville High School, she obtained her associate’s degree from ICC. She attended Southern Christian University in Montgomery, Ala., and Mississippi University for Women. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1988. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in marriage and

family therapy. Hodges is certified in Oncology and Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing. She has also been a nursing assistant, staff nurse and charge nurse at NMMC.

“The best part of my job is being with the patient population that I serve,” Hodges said. “I love working with oncology patients and their families. I enjoy working with end of life issues and seeing the inward working of a family and their loved ones as they journey through this part of life. My life is so blessed by the patients that I see. I am a better person because my life has been touched by so many of them.”

T.J. Loague of Baldwyn, who serves as senior officer for NMMC’s Security Department. Loague joined the NMMC staff in 2001. Prior to assuming her current position, Loague worked as a switchboard operator and in Ambassador Services. She graduated from South Pontotoc High School and received her associate’s degree in microcomputers and office systems technology from Itawamba Community College in 2002. She is also trained in electronic medical records and CPI.

“What I love most about my job is being able to help others to find a win/win situation,” Loague said. “I feel that everyone should work together as a team, which means never saying, ‘That is not my job.’ I love the support of our department for all the officers – we all feel we are a family on and off the clock.”

Nancy Prather of Booneville, who serves as a respiratory therapist with Baldwyn Nursing Facility. Prather joined NMMC in 1983 and has also worked at Women’s Hospital. Prather graduated from Wheeler High School

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Gardening, Reading, Boating Make Ideal Retirement

Jan Yarbrough, a medical technologist with NMMC's Pathology Department, retired in October after 27 years of service.

A graduate of Water Valley High School, Yarbrough began her NMMC career in March 1980 after earning a bachelor's degree in medical technology from the University of Mississippi. She had spent three years on the college campus and 12 months in NMMC's medical technology program, which focuses on clinical rotations, technology and theory applications. During her college years she was drum major and played the oboe, plus worked part-time in a physician's office and pharmacy.


Yarbrough has witnessed a multitude of changes during her tenure. "What we used to do by hand is now done by machine," she said. "That's a good thing

because we do a lot more tests now than we used to. When I first started, we would do three to four drug screens a day, and now we do up to hundreds a day."

Yarbrough has enjoyed watching the instrumentation and testing evolve.

"It gets better every time," she said.

She is a member of First United Methodist Church in Tupelo and has participated in Tupelo Community Theater productions, dinner theater productions and Fortnightly Musicale. She is married to Scotty Yarbrough, who retired as a teacher from Tupelo High School, and their two dogs—a Border collie and a chow mix—are a big part of their family.

In retirement, Yarbrough plans to spend more time at the family's cabin and boat on Pickwick Lake. Reading has always been a favorite pastime: "If you ever saw someone walking to the parking garage with an open book in her hand, that was me," she said. In addition to reading more books, she plans to travel more and work in her garden. 



Jan Yarbrough (center) is congratulated upon her retirement by coworkers from the Pathology Department during a reception in her honor Oct. 3.


NMHS Announces Tobacco Free Policy

In keeping with its dedication to the promotion of health and wellness, North Mississippi Health Services announced Oct. 5 its intentions to establish a tobacco free campus at all of its hospitals, clinics and other facilities effective July 7, 2008.

The NMHS Board of Directors approved the change, the time frame for its implementation and the new tobacco-free policy. At the board's request, a Tobacco Task Force, comprised of systemwide employees, was established to review the current policy for possible change.

All NMHS locations, whether the facility and grounds are owned, leased or rented, will be tobacco free. The new policy will apply to everyone on

those premises. Employees, medical staff, volunteers, vendors, visitors and patients will not be permitted to use tobacco products in any facility or on any grounds of North Mississippi Health Services.

"We believe this new policy is the right thing to do for the health of our community," said Rodger Brown, NMHS vice president and chairman of the NMHS Tobacco Task Force. "Our group will be working to educate the community on these changes. This education includes making smoking cessation classes available for the public as well as our employees who want to become smoke-free or tobacco-free." 

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and went on to attend Northeast Mississippi Community College. She is a registered respiratory therapist and certified Basic Life Support instructor.

Tim Ricks, RN, of Nettleton, who works in the NMMC Cardiac Catheterization Lab. Ricks joined NMMC in 1984 and has also worked on 2 West, 3 South, in Dialysis and the former Surgical Intensive Care Unit. A graduate of Nettleton High School, he earned his associate's degree from Itawamba Community College in Fulton and a bachelor's degree from Mississippi University for Women.

Ricks says what he loves most about his job is "when we bring someone in that is having a heart attack and we stop it and fix the problem, and they are then able to return to a normal life within a few days."


Leigh-Anne Scroggins, RN, of Booneville, who joined NMMC in 2005 and works with Hospice. She is

a graduate of Booneville High School and earned her associate's degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville.

Scroggins says what she loves most about her job is taking care of her patients, getting to know them and becoming a part of their family.

Brad Woodcock of Saltillo, who is a physical therapist assistant with the NMMC Home Health Agency in Tupelo. Woodcock joined NMMC in 1994. He attended Grand Prairie High School in Texas and earned a bachelor's degree from Delta State University before returning to school to earn an associate's degree in physical therapist assistant technology.

Woodcock says that he loves continually meeting new people and helping to improve the quality of life for them and their families.

To recognize an NMMC staff member for outstanding work, nominate him/her for Stars On-Line or call 377-3900. 


Hospice Seeks Items For Holiday Care Baskets

North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice is making 75 to 100 baskets for Hospice patients and bereaved families.

Individuals or departments who have items to donate are asked to deliver them to the Hospice office before Dec. 14. Suggested items include:

- Medium-sized baskets
- Fruit (apples, oranges, grapefruit, tangerines; no bananas)
- Snack foods
- Bottled water, hot chocolate mix, spiced tea mix

- Candy (regular and sugar free)
- Personal hygiene items (lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Note pads, pens, pencils
- Crafts, ornaments, decorative items
- Inspirational music (cassette or CD)
- Tissue
- Personal notes
- Inspirational books, devotionals and bookmarks

For more information, call Chris Maynard or Jerry Grammer at 377-3612. 

Pharmacy Department Wins Prestigious Award


NMMC's Pharmacy Department recently won the inaugural American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Crystal APPLE award.

Kristie Gholson, Pharm.D, preceptor in the program and assistant director of the NMMC pharmacy, was the recipient of the award, and Harold Kornfuhrer, director of the NMMC pharmacy, was also recognized. Gholson and NMMC's Pharmacy Department was nominated by the School of Pharmacy Professional Experience Program Director Kris Harrell.

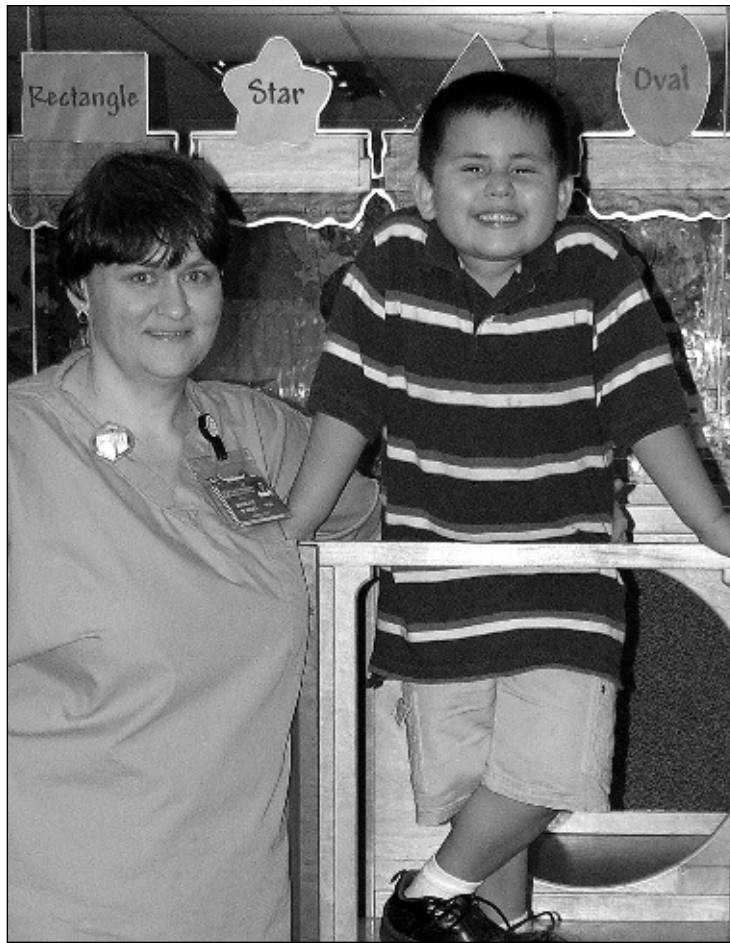
The Crystal APPLE (Academic-Practice Partnerships for Learning Excellence) award was won in conjunction with the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. The program recognizes the contributions of the faculty/administrators who are their practice partners in successfully conducting and supporting quality experiential education in exemplary patient care in clinical teaching environments.

The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and the NMMC Pharmacy Department are practice partners, which means that pharmacy students are given the opportunity to practice at NMMC.

Students are actively participating in medication therapy management, clinical consult services, drug information and medication error analysis. Other student endeavors include involvement with automation and technology, clinical decision support systems, on-line formulary and drug information, clinical trials and patient safety initiatives.

"I feel very fortunate to work in a health system that provides so many opportunities for pharmacists to practice and for students to learn," Gholson said. "I appreciate the recognition but I have to acknowledge the rest of the pharmacy staff who contribute to student training. This award shows that the pharmacy school and its students believe we provide excellent patient care, which is the best environment for student training." 

Quick Action Saves Classmate's Life



Donovan Mortales, age 5, saved another child from choking while on the NMMC Child Care Center bus. Donovan noticed that one of his classmates was choking on a piece of hard candy and got the attention of the bus driver, Gypsee Wilson, who stopped the bus and performed the Heimlich maneuver. Mortales is pictured here with his mother, Johnette, a CT technician in radiology. "I am so proud of him for paying such good attention to his classmates and knowing what to do," his mother said.



Behavioral Health Center Hosts Cookout For Employees, Patients

NMMC's Behavioral Health Center held a fall cookout on Oct. 11-12. The evening cookout was held Oct. 11 with the daytime event following Oct. 12. Patients and NMMC employees enjoyed good food with a "Football Tailgating Party" theme and decorations provided by the Food and Nutrition Services staff.