

Andrew College

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PRESS RELEASE

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Symbolic nurse pinning ceremony marks Andrew College's journey to serve the region

CUTHBERT, GA. – Andrew College heeded the call two years ago to start a nursing program which would serve the region and provide badly needed registered nurses to area hospitals and medical centers. On Friday, May 3, that dream was realized as 27 nursing students received their nursing pins in a ceremony marked with symbolism and emotion.

The Jinks Physical Education Complex was filled with over 400 students, family members, friends, faculty and staff members as the first graduating class of nursing students was welcomed into the nursing profession.

Tears flowed freely as students shared their joy with faculty members as they were pinned.

Susan Askew, director of the nursing program remarked that so many people and departments were affected by the vision to “start nursing at Andrew.” She said that she was thankful to the Board of Trustees for believing in President Buchanan’s vision; to the donors who gave to make it happen; for Dr. Joan Darden’s leadership; and to Cindy Lee for her willingness to put her knowledge to paper. She said, “I am especially thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the process.”

Askew also said, “We have been blessed with wonderful community support. Members of the community came out to speak to accreditation site visitors on our behalf. Our Advisory Committee members freely gave of themselves to offer guidance in the implementation of this program. Clinical partners have worked diligently to provide opportunities for our students to practice nursing skills within their facilities, asking nothing in return.”

She asked for a round of applause from the students for all of the people who were busy clearing the path for them before they even knew that they would be studying at Andrew.

Special awards were also given during the ceremony to deserving nursing students. The Joan Darden Leadership Award was given to DeAmbra Thompson, Coleman, GA; Shakita Johnson, Coleman, GA, received the Cynthia Mallory Caring Award; the Nightingale Clinical Excellence Award was given to Alexandria Barfield, Shellman, GA; and Demetrice Harper, Albany, GA received the Aderhold Commitment Award.

Joining the ceremony as keynote speaker was Cindy Lee, MSN, RN, FNP-C. A vital person in the formation of Andrew College Nursing, Lee spoke about overcoming adversity and about what a great future the nursing students will have as they grow in their nursing careers.

She told students that “if it doesn’t challenge you, it doesn’t change you” and commented that each student took advantage of the challenge and have now made history by being the first nursing graduates. She encouraged students to be “courageous” and welcomed all to the nursing profession.

Lee has a rich history in nursing practice and education, and even though retired, still practices as a nurse practitioner. She is a mentor nurse, an encourager and friend.

President Linda Buchanan also welcomed guests and thanked all of those who made the nursing program a success. Special thanks went to Andrew College graduates Tom and Kay Aderhold for whom the Aderhold Division of Nursing is named.

-End- (unless room and interest to publish this poem)

Especially memorable during the program was the recitation of a poem written by Susan Askew, director of the nursing program, which told the story of how nursing was born at Andrew.

Nursing Is Born...

Over in Cuthbert
Just off of twenty-seven
At Andrew College
A little piece of South Georgia heaven

It was the third of May
The year two thousand nineteen
What was once deemed impossible
Now, much more than a dream

With a President who persisted
And donors who gave
A retiree who led
And a teacher who prayed

Nursing is born.....

So, they started in the fall
The first nursing class
With five semesters to go
This should be a blast

Skills and math
Drug cards and clinicals
Lives are consumed
With nursing school tentacles
But, at last here we are
Standing proud in all white
Faces are beaming
Like angels shining bright

Nursing is born....

There is Sonya, Darlene
Sharon and Shakita
Veronica, Shantrice
Miya and Annitra

Shana, DeAmbra
Ebony and Toquisha
Demetrice, Kiara
Antrinette and Tina

Catrishe, Alexandria
Tarisha and Kayla
Alex, Janel
Tamekia and Taylor

Jeni- known as Morgan
And last but not least
There's Miranda-
I mean Rhonda and Sweet Little Abbie

Nursing is born...

So, as I sit here today
And look at these faces
My heart is so full
Knowing all the places

Places they've been
And places they will go
Lives they will touch
Because of what they know

Dedicated to serving
And committed to care
Twenty-seven new nurses
Twenty-seven who dare

Nursing is born....

susan askew
2019

Photo 1: Nursing students begin their walk into the Jinks Physical Education Complex for the start of Andrew College's Nurse Pinning Ceremony.

Photo 2: Cindy Lee, area nurse educator and practitioner, delivered the keynote address, stressing overcoming adversity and looking to a bright future.

Photo 3: Nursing student Darlene Davis-Flowers, Morris, GA, receives her pin from Andrew College Director of the Nursing Program Susan Askew during the Nurse Pinning Ceremony.

Photo 4: Nursing students and nurses in the audience and on stage recite the Nightingale Pledge.

Photos by Sheri Michaels, permission is granted to print.

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Established in 1854, Andrew College is related to The United Methodist Church and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Situated in the rural southwest Georgia community of Cuthbert, Andrew College offers the Associate of Art, Associate of Music, Associate of Nursing, Associate of Science and Bachelor of Business degrees.