

Zachary Gardner and Mallary Taylor Earn Scholarships

On Monday, May 4 Ronnie Mills, President of Anson County Farm Bureau, presented the winners of the Anson County Farm Bureau Scholarships. Zachary Gardner (pictured right) will receive \$1000. He plans to attend UNC-Charlotte.

Mallary Taylor also was awarded \$1000. She plans to attend Wingate University.

Mills said, "We are proud to assist in helping with their continuing education and wish them the best of luck in their college careers."



Anson County Students Graduate from RCC Nursing Program



Richmond Community College nursing graduates Jasmine Sturdivant from Polkton (left) and Stacy Windham from Morven.

Jasmine Sturdivant from Polkton and Stacy Windham from Morven were among thirty-six nursing students of Richmond Community College who were officially pinned during the college's Associates Degree Nursing (ADN) commencement exercises on May 14 at the Cole Auditorium.

Dr. Dale McInnis, president of RCC, welcomed everyone to the 38th pinning ceremony honoring the students who worked hard and persevered to complete the rigorous nursing program. He recognized the nursing faculty for their hard work and support in making the nursing program a success. He also recognized the family and friends of the students who supported them while they were in nursing school.

Carol Gibson, chair of RCC's nursing department, introduced Dr. Michelle Taylor Skipper, a family nurse practitioner, as the guest speaker for the pinning ceremony. Skipper has been a faculty member in the nurse practitioner program at East Carolina University since 2006 and was recently inducted into the East Carolina University College of Nursing Hall of Fame. "Twenty-four years ago, Dr. Skipper was in the same place in her career as you are tonight, preparing for that first job as a registered nurse," Gibson said to the ADN Class of 2015.

Skipper provided words of congratulations, encouragement and challenge to the students. "Tonight is about you and the doors of opportunity you are about to go through," Skipper said. "There's a good reason they call these ceremonies commencement exercises because graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."

Skipper talked about the many doors of opportunity that opened on the path of her career. "I say that to you not to toot my own horn but to tell you that when those opportunities come to further your education, take those chances," she said.

She also talked about how nursing has changed from when she first started 24 years ago and how the world of healthcare is changing now. "Hear me clearly when I say we have to get back to keeping the patient the center of it all," she said. "You may feel like a naïve new graduate nurse, and you are, but in time that voice will come, that intuition will come that advocates for your patient. Do not undervalue your contribution to patient care. You're the person at the bedside; you're the person who may indeed know the most what that patient needs and what their goals are for their healthcare."

Also speaking during the pinning ceremony was ADN Class of 2015 President Lauren Burris. "The first day of this program was so overwhelming. The classroom was full of eager minds and students chomping at the bit to start an IV or see something really interesting, which usually translated to something morbid or grotesque," Burris said. "None of us had any idea how much of a change would occur within us. Nursing school is not simply about the skills or what you learn. Nursing is a complete life change — driven by the desire to care for others."

Stacy Windham received the Laura Susan Sharpe Memorial Nursing Award, presented by the family of Laura Susan Sharpe to the graduate who has shown the most care and compassion to cancer patients.

Push to Bring Shrine Bowl to Charlotte Gets Approval

The Oasis Shriners Board of Directors has voted overwhelmingly to rejoin the Carolinas' five other Shrine Chapters in sponsoring The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

The Shrine Bowl was started by Oasis Shriners of Charlotte in 1937 and was played in Charlotte's American Legion Memorial Stadium through 2000. The game then moved to South Carolina, first to Rock Hill, S.C., and then to Spartanburg, S.C., as Oasis leadership focused on other fundraising projects for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Oasis is the largest chapter in Shriners International with more than 5,800 members in the 50 western counties of North Carolina. Oasis also is the biggest fundraiser of Shriners International's 195 chapters raising \$1,300,000 last year for Shriners Hospitals for Children. A ground swell of popular support in North Carolina, and in Charlotte in particular, convinced Oasis leadership that the time was right for Oasis to return to sponsorship of this game that pits the best football players from both North and South Carolina high schools against each other. The matchup is held during December.

There is also great popular support by former Charlotte Shrine Bowl players and fans to bring the game back to the Queen City. Jeff Beaver, former executive director of the Charlotte Regional Sports Commission, favors formation of a committee to develop support among Charlotte leaders to return the game to the Carolinas' largest city. A lunch discussion with Charlotte natives Beaver and Charlotte attorney Lynwood Mallard revealed the important impact of the Shrine Bowl on them. Both Beaver and Mallard were football stars on Myers Park High School football teams coached by the legendary Gus Purcell. Beaver quarterbacked the North Carolina team to victory in the 1962 Shrine Bowl. Mallard who was not a Shrine Bowl player, but who played for Davidson College, remembers the thrill of the many Shrine Bowls and Shrine parades he attended growing up in Charlotte.

Beaver shared that it was exciting to be on the same team in the Shrine Bowl with a number of players he had played against. Some of those players joined him as college football stars, such as North Carolina Tar Heels teammate Danny Talbott and Duke's Bob Matheson. Some also became professional football players during the same time that Beaver played with quarterback Johnny Unitas on the Baltimore Colts professional football team. Matheson, for example, had a career with the Miami Dolphins and the Cleveland Browns.

Playing on a winning Shrine Bowl team was a highlight of his football career, Beaver added. He said as a 17-year-old player, the most impressive part of his Shrine Bowl experience was the players' visit to the Greenville, S. C., Shriners Hospital for Children. He called that experience with patients "fantastic."

For Beaver the Shrine Bowl is a family affair because his late brother Hal, another Myers Park High School quarterback, was a star of the 1958 game and later played for Georgia Tech. Beaver, who has a successful record of bringing great sports events to Charlotte, is convinced that the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas will be a huge success if it returns to its first home, Charlotte. He commented that his good friend Gov. Pat McCrory will be a great advocate for this initiative.

The Shriners' hospitals treat children with orthopedic problems, burns, cleft lips and palates, spinal cord injuries and cerebral palsy. There are 20 locations across the U.S. and Canada. For more information or to recommend someone, call 800-237-5055. To learn more about the Shrine Bowl, visit shrine-bowl.com.

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