

Oklahoma's Nursing Times

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Serving Oklahoma Nurses &
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Protecting life ER Nurse Gives His All

Read his story on page 2

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University School of Nursing

RECRUITER SHOWCASE



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
Health Sciences Center

**CLINICAL RESEARCH
NURSE NEEDED**

**TARGETED SALARY AT
\$60,500 ANNUALLY**



**SEE OUR
AD ON
PAGE TWO**

Zack Smith, RN

Supervisor of emergency nursing at OU Health Edmond Medical Center

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

The journey to becoming a registered nurse was heartfelt for Zack Smith, RN, supervisor of emergency nursing at OU Health Edmond Medical Center. ER nursing is his home.

"Emergency medicine has always been a team sport for me," Smith said. "You never do anything by yourself. You always have your teammates with you."

He loves getting to see patients improve and go home. That is something the former paramedic never experienced in a pre-hospital setting, he said. Smith was always handing off patients to someone else. But that would change.

Smith's career path brought him to recall the raging wildfires that caused him and his family to be evacuated from their home in San Diego. At the time, he had been a construction worker building houses.

"I just saw the emergency workers and the community workers. Everyone was coming together, and it looked really interesting to me," Smith said. "So, I decided to get some training. I got involved in a community response team."

In 2008, Smith became an emergency medical technician before becoming a paramedic and a volunteer firefighter as an EMS coordinator for two years in San Diego. Smith earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2017 from California State University.

"In terms of becoming a nurse, I felt like I wanted to do more for the patients," he said.

He wanted to help people for more than a few important minutes as a paramedic. Becoming a registered nurse alongside physicians and other nurses allowed him to experience a full continuum of patient care.

He realized his dream of leaving

California by moving to Oklahoma in 2020 with his wife and their six children.

"I've been happy here ever since," he said. "When I came here, I felt like the people were friendly, so open and warm. He felt a sense of freedom and place when joining the ER staff. Smith has worked in other areas of OU Health Edmond Medical Center as well. When staff was unavailable, Smith worked in every unit of the hospital during the COVID pandemic, including ICU, med/surg, and the OU Health - Autumn Life Behavioral Center. And COVID influenced his thought process and trajectory of being a nurse. He recovered from a non-severe case of COVID in 2021 and his career.

"Just seeing the response of our community to a pandemic, whether COVID, flu or whatever, it was interesting to see a lot of the lessons we did not learn from the Swine Flu pandemic," Smith said.

He noticed a lot of similar mistakes were made by the community and governmental level in comparison to 2010 when he was a paramedic. But COVID brought even more wide-spread fear to communities, he said.

"I think as a nurse it's

important to really educate people so they're well informed," Smith said. "Hopefully we can allay some of those fears by sharing with people the important things they need to know — how to protect themselves, but in a way, that's not going to cause them to panic."

Patients enter the 10-room emergency department of OU Health Edmond Medical Center with a range of conditions from clinical-type visits, medication refills, to life threatening heart attacks, strokes, and trauma. So, it doesn't take a lot of patients to make the nursing staff busy.

The ER's culture is about customer service, with a goal of achieving high patient satisfaction. The ER is structured to not have ER patients wait in the lobby when room is available, Smith said.

"Most of the traumas we see don't come by ambulance because we're not a trauma receiving facility for the paramedics," Smith said. "But we still get people coming through the front door, people with stab wounds, gunshot wounds, severe lacerations and broken bones. We take care of all of them, stabilize and transfer to a higher level of care."

Continued next page

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Zack Smith, RN, supervisor of emergency nursing at OU Health Edmond Medical Center is touched by the lives of patients he serves when their lives are vulnerable.

SMITH

Continued from Page 2

The ER is never a dull moment. There's always a new problem to solve, Smith explained.

Many moments touch his life. But a crisis tends to be compartmentalized. Smith said ER nurses have to be able to shut off their emotions to respond decisively.

"There are times when patients come in and it really affects you," he said.

Having the opportunity to help people through some of the hardest

times of their lives is Smith's reward.

"For me, just having the opportunity to pray with patients, to minister to them not only physically meeting their needs, but just being there with them as a human being. Meeting that spiritual need as well has been a phenomenal opportunity for me," Smith said. "I feel like in addition to being my job, this is more like a calling."

For Smith, being a nurse is an opportunity to share love.

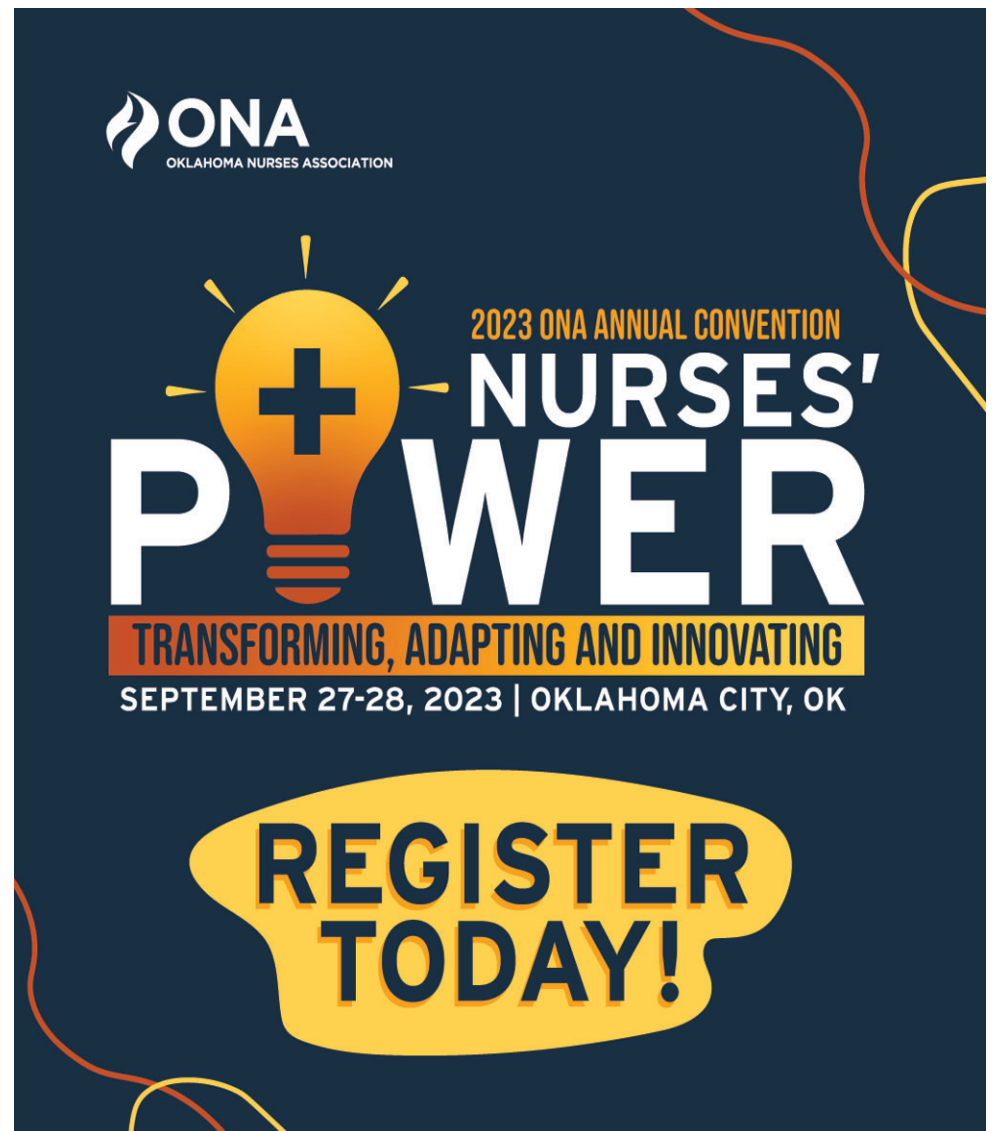
For more information about OU Health Edmond, click [HERE](#).

2023 ONA ANNUAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

The Oklahoma Nurses Association will be hosting the 2023 annual convention in Oklahoma City September 27th through the 28th.

The goal of the convention is to focus on supporting nurses and building supportive structures for nurses' new normal as the work environment evolves and highlight the difference nurses make every day in the life of patients.

This year, the convention will take place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expy in Oklahoma City. Register for the convention here: <https://www.oklahomanurses.org/event-5288406>



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CAREERS IN NURSING: CHEERFUL PERSONA - RN COORDINATES CANCER CARE

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

An Beard, RN, has always felt connected to people. Her life was saved by a nurse when she was a child in Vietnam. And these factors were reinforced by a personality test that indicated nursing would be a top field for her to pursue.

Today, Beard serves as an oncology nurse coordinator at INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute North Campus in Oklahoma City. Her patients have changed her perspective on life.

"I consider them as angels walking on earth," Beard said. "They make me feel deep gratitude for life. Everything is so small compared to what cancer patients must go through. They have changed me to become a better person."

The low turn-over rate among the nursing staff was one of the first things she noticed when arriving at INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute in early 2022. Some of the nurses have worked in oncology for INTEGRIS for more than 30 years.

"They are very loving and caring," she said.

Beard draws from a deep well

of nursing experience. She began her career as a bedside nurse with a cardiovascular and transplant services unit of OU Health. She decided to work in outpatient nursing for a more predictable schedule and chose pulmonary nursing for six years until the doctor she worked with retired.

Beard also draws from a wealth of knowledge by working with oncologists, Dr. Brian Geister and Dr. Agnel Raparathi. She coordinates care between the oncologists and infusion nurses.

Dr. Raparathi is new at INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute. Raparathi said she wished she could clone Beard so that when she gets her own nurse, she would have someone like Beard.

Patients contact her about concerns and problems. She directs them to a proper resource. By identifying an issue, she helps prevent patients from being hospitalized.

"I care about everything — emotionally, financially and physically," Beard said. "I treat the patient as a whole person with a holistic approach."

A cancer diagnosis isn't always

fatal, but the news can be devastating for patients and their families. It can bring up a lot of fear, negative emotions, and confusion, she said. For example, she helps navigate the process of scheduling appointments with breast cancer surgeons before she meets the patient. And waiting for a lab result sometimes is scary.

"I don't want patients to feel fearful about communicating their concerns," she said. "We are there for the patients."

Beard is often mentioned in patient comments about how wonderful she is. Her cheerful persona makes a cancer diagnosis an easier process, according to patient feedback.

Patients appreciate direct answers to questions with useful information. She provides them with her email address and phone number. Beard makes it easy for patients by letting them know she is available.

"I tell my patients you can call me 50 times if you want to, at any time possible," she said. "If I don't know the answer, I know who to ask. I have a big team here. That's why when they

come to see me, they already feel like we are longtime friends."

Continuing education is a proven resource for nurses when learning about the most up to date technology and advancements in cancer care. Beard earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Central Oklahoma. She is back in school now as a graduate student at the Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Beard is working toward earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

"One of the reasons I started is I like to volunteer at the homeless shelter. I also like to go to my church community center," she said. "We have a free clinic. Because of my background I am very interested in the population's health and the barriers to access care."

Beard was born in Vietnam and immigrated to the US in 2008. She had to overcome a language and cultural barrier. She steadily learned the English language.

continued next page



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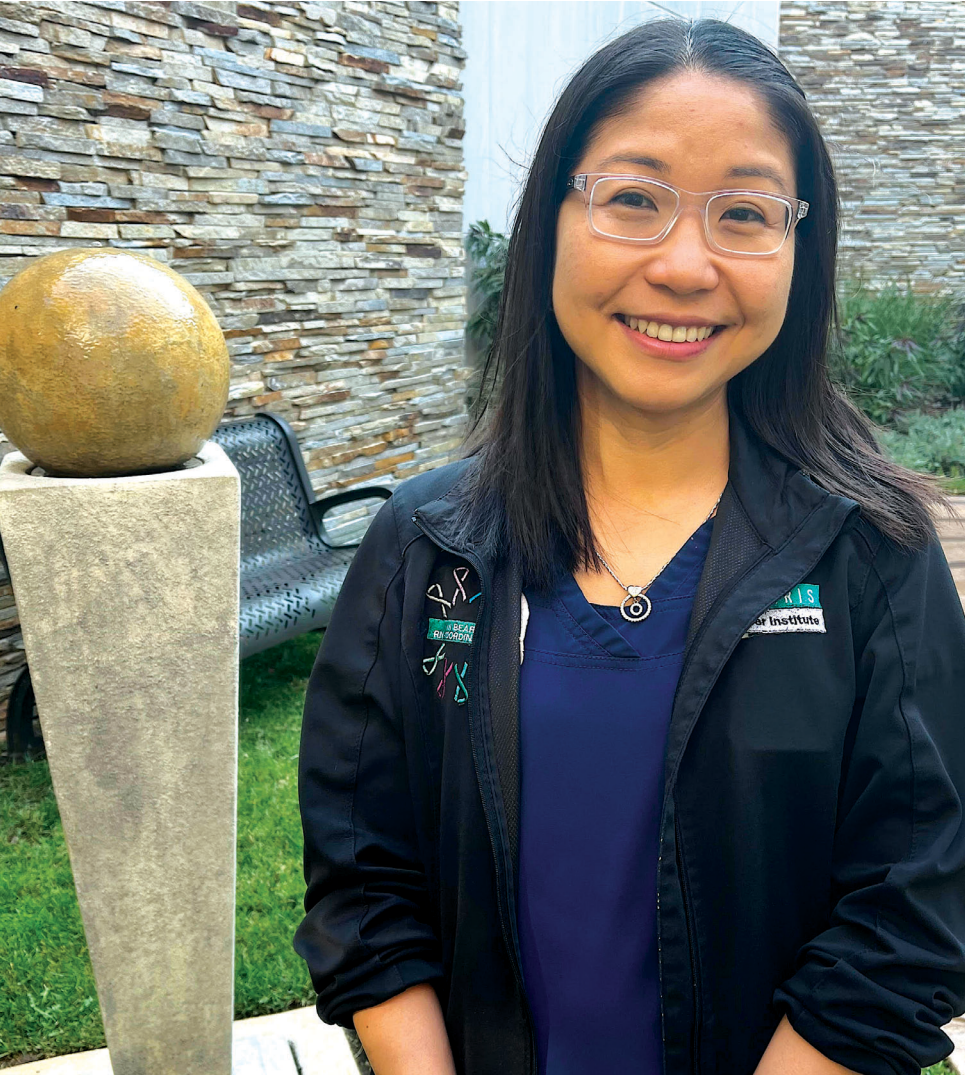
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An Beard is a registered nurse who brings compassion and empathy while helping patients living with cancer navigate their journey at the INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute North Campus in Oklahoma City.

BEARD

Continued from Page 4

She is known to persevere. Beard's daily life is full of vitality. She runs marathons.

"I wake up in the morning and workout seven days a week. And I read the Bible. I like to do Bible study."

She's also involved in a friends' support group, swims often with her son, and reads books.

"I feel really good about life in general," she said.

One thing that spurs her momentum is the love between family members. A husband will cancel a trip to be with his wife.

"I see kids taking care of parents, and how husbands and wives take care of each other. Siblings travel the US to be with a dying sibling. That's a lot of love. Cancer is awful, but the love among family members and human connection is real and overcomes everything."

41st Annual EPIC Educational Conference Set, 6 continuing education hours provided

The Epidemiologists and Professional in Infection Control (EPIC) conference will be held Friday, November 3rd, 2023 at the Petroleum Club Event Center, 4040 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. 73105.

Nurses will be provided 6 hours of continuing education credits by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

The 2023 EPIC Conference Speakers:

Bryan Spradley, training director, Arkansas Oklahoma Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Program ICRA Awareness.

Kathleen McMullen, MPH, CIC, FAPIC, Mercy Health Director of Infection Prevention Critical Access Hospital IP Program Standards.

Dr. Izzy Justice, Chief Neuroscientist, NEURO580, Mental Health in Healthcare Workers.

Jolianne Stone, MPH, OSDH State Epidemiologist, State Disease Update.

Registration Deadline is October 15th, 2023. REGISTER [HERE](#):

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As Graceland's newest MSN offering, the **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)** program will prepare you to work across the lifespan with pediatric to geriatric patients providing mental health care and substance abuse treatment in all types of healthcare settings in both rural and urban communities in a field that is not only growing, but extremely needed in today's world.

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OCU Begins Accelerated Nursing Program

Oklahoma City University is making a move to help address the nation's critical nursing shortage by introducing the state's first and only in-person 12-month accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree.

At the same time, the school is making substantial scholarship money available to almost all students accepted in the program to help pave the way for those interested in pursuing the degree and becoming a nurse.

"An accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree is one of the strongest tools we can employ to help fill the nursing employment pipeline," said Gina Crawford, dean of Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing. "We're confident in our ability to educate the next

generation of nurses, and this option allows us to have an even greater impact on health outcomes in our city and state."

The first cohort of students in the program will begin classes on campus in January, with a second start scheduled for the fall 2024 semester. The degree track is open to any student with a non-nursing associate or bachelor's degree. Courses are offered in eight-week blocks.

To help increase financial access to the program, the Kramer School of Nursing (KSN) is making its Kramer Way Scholarship available to at least 10 students who begin in January. The scholarship is awarded through a competitive application process; it provides \$15,000 to each of the selected students.



OCU nursing student Albert Babarsky studies in one of the Kramer School of Nursing labs.

Oklahoma City University (OCU) also offers transfer and departmental scholarships, as well as special nursing scholarships for some students transferring from Oklahoma City Community College. These scholarships – based on a student's college GPA – provide an opportunity to defray a significant portion of the program's costs.

For example, all students with a college transfer GPA of at least 3.0 will automatically receive nearly \$10,000 in scholarships. All students with a GPA of 3.6 or higher will receive more than \$17,000 in scholarships.

The 12-month accelerated BSN degree is the second major initiative OCU has unveiled this year in its efforts to help combat the nursing shortage. In February, the school announced the Saints & Stars Program, a five-year partnership with SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. Saints & Stars allows certain OCU nursing students to work part-time with SSM Health while receiving scholarships and tuition discounts during their junior and senior year of college.

OCU President Kenneth Evans said it's important that higher education institutions continue to play an active role in helping address societal needs.

"We view ourselves not only as a school, but as a member of our local and broader community," Evans said. "We have an obligation to help tackle the difficult issues our community faces, and to play a leading role where we can."

"We feel that we can play a leading role when it comes to the nursing shortage."

In addition to the new 12-month accelerated BSN program, OCU offers a variety of other nursing programs with options both on-campus and online, including master's and doctoral degrees; a registered nurse-BSN degree; a licensed practical nurse-BSN degree; and a traditional, two-year BSN track.

More information about the 12-month accelerated BSN and OCU's other nursing programs can be found at www.okcu.edu/nursing.

Founded in 1904, Oklahoma City University is a private, nonprofit liberal arts and sciences university that prides itself on graduating transformational leaders across a variety of disciplines. OCU is located in the heart of Oklahoma City, nestled between the city's Uptown 23rd and Asian districts. At OCU, students from across the globe follow their passions and excel in sciences, religion, business, nursing and health care, fine arts, law and the performing arts. More information is available at okcu.edu.



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Accidental falls top list of non-fatal injuries sending Americans to ER, study finds

- Unintentional falls are the most common, with an estimated 5,598,438 incidents yearly.
- Unintentional poisoning came second, with approximately 1,712,272 incidents each year.
- Unintentional firearm incidents are the least common, accounting for only 26,830 emergency room visits.

A new study reveals the non-fatal injuries that most frequently land Americans in the emergency room, with accidental falls being the top cause.

The analysis undertaken by experienced personal injury attorneys **John Foy & Associates**, used the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to uncover the leading injuries prompting adults to seek emergency medical assistance.

Unintentional falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries in America, resulting in around 5,598,438 ER visits annually across all genders and ages. This type of accident may occur due to circumstances like slippery, cluttered, or unstable walking/working surfaces.

The second most common is unintentional poisoning, with around 1,712,272 individuals affected each year. From foodborne illnesses to drug overdoses, poisoning comes in many forms and represents one the largest ER risks nationwide. This category excludes the unexpected adverse effects of correctly administered drugs and bacterial illnesses like food poisoning.

Unintentionally struck by or against takes third place and accounts for 1,591,827 visits each year. These visits typically involve incidents where individuals are struck by an object, animals or person, rather than a vehicle or machinery. They can occur in a number of circumstances, such as at a person's workplace, while walking their dog, or rollerblading on the beach.

Occupants of motor vehicles are fourth, with an estimated 1,541,393 visits each year. These accidents affect occupants of cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, vans, heavy transport vehicles, and buses and most commonly occur as a result of traffic accidents.

Unintentionally cut or pierced is the fifth most common reason, accounting for an estimated 1,293,773 visits each year. Accidental incisions, slashes, perforations, punctures, and lacerations from household or occupational objects are common examples of this non-fatal injury.

The sixth-leading cause is overexertion, which can result from activities like heavy lifting or intense workouts, and accounts for more than 1,272,977 yearly emergency department

visits.

Coming in seventh is unintentional bites and stings, causing around 427,255 emergency visits. This accounts for injuries such as snake and lizard bites, bee and wasp, scorpion stings, and even jellyfish stings. This also encompasses injuries involving penetration of the skin from plants or plant parts.

Other unintentional transportation-related injuries come in eighth, with about 350,007 cases each year. These injuries include pedestrians injured while boarding transport, accidents involving power scooters, go-karts, streetcars, and even space transport.

Presence of a foreign body is the ninth leading cause, with around 277,922 yearly incidents. Such incidents could involve accidental ingestion or insertion of foreign objects, such as toys, pebbles, or dirt, into the eye or other orifices of the body.

Rounding off the top ten is unintentional pedal cyclist injuries, with 229,312 incidents. This includes accidents involving bicycles and similar transport modes, such as losing control, colliding, or other traffic-related events on public roads.

John Foy, founder of John Foy & Associates, commented on the findings:

"The data provided further important insights, when looking at sex differences between male and female ER visits. For instance, women are more frequently victims of dog bites than men, which could be in part due to the fact that more than 70% of dog walkers are female.

"Additionally, the data suggests that occupants of larger vehicles, such as cars, trucks, or buses, are 590% more likely to sustain non-fatal injuries than motorcyclists.

"It's also noteworthy that overexertion alone results in more emergency room trips than dog bites, pedal cycle incidents, and bites and stings combined."

For more information, visit: <https://www.johnfoy.com>

The leading causes of non-fatal injury in America		
Rank	Cause of emergency room visit	Estimated number of emergency room visits
1.	Unintentional fall	5,598,438
2.	Unintentional poisoning	1,712,272
3.	Unintentionally struck by or against against object/animal/person	1,591,827
4.	Unintentional motor vehicle occupant injury	1,541,393
5.	Unintentionally cut or pierced	1,293,773
6.	Unintentional overexertion	1,272,977
7.	Unintentional bites and stings	427,255
8.	Unintentional other transportation injuries	350,007
9.	Unintentional foreign object inside body	277,922
10.	Unintentional pedal cyclist (bicycle, etc.) injury	229,312
11.	Unintentional motorcyclist injury	223,431
12.	Unintentional dog bite injury	220,125
13.	Unintentional fire/burn injury	213,634
14.	Unintentional machinery injury	129,858
15.	Unintentional pedestrian injury	119,214
16.	Unintentional natural or environmental injury	50,627
17.	Unintentional inhalation or suffocation	32,214
18.	Unintentional firearm injury	26,830

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41st Annual Educational Conference



OKNT

CROSSWORD: OB Medications

- Across
4. beat to beat variations of the FHR

6. use of pharmacologic agents that decreases pain perception

8. pressure sensitive devic inserted directly into the uterus to measure true intensity of contractions in mmHg abbr

10. abr. for artifical rupture of membranes

12. local anesthetic agent injected at the pudendal nerve to produce numbness of the lower 2/3 of the & perinuem, 2 words -----X-----

14. cervical ripening agent (prostaglandin) that can be left in for 12 hours

15. increase in lbs. of maternal blood volume in pregnancy

16. the craving & eating of substances with little or no nutrional value

18. surgical incision into the perinuem to enlarge the vaginal opening

20. antiemetic often given with demerol, nubain, morphine
- Down

1. temporary loss of sensation of pain, or induced unconsciousness

2. assist birth by aplying suction to the fetal head, 2 words -----X-----

3. mineral required for DNA & RNA synthesis, needed for cell development & fetal growth

5. fetal heart rate baseline < 110

7. often given for theraputic rest in a prodomial labor

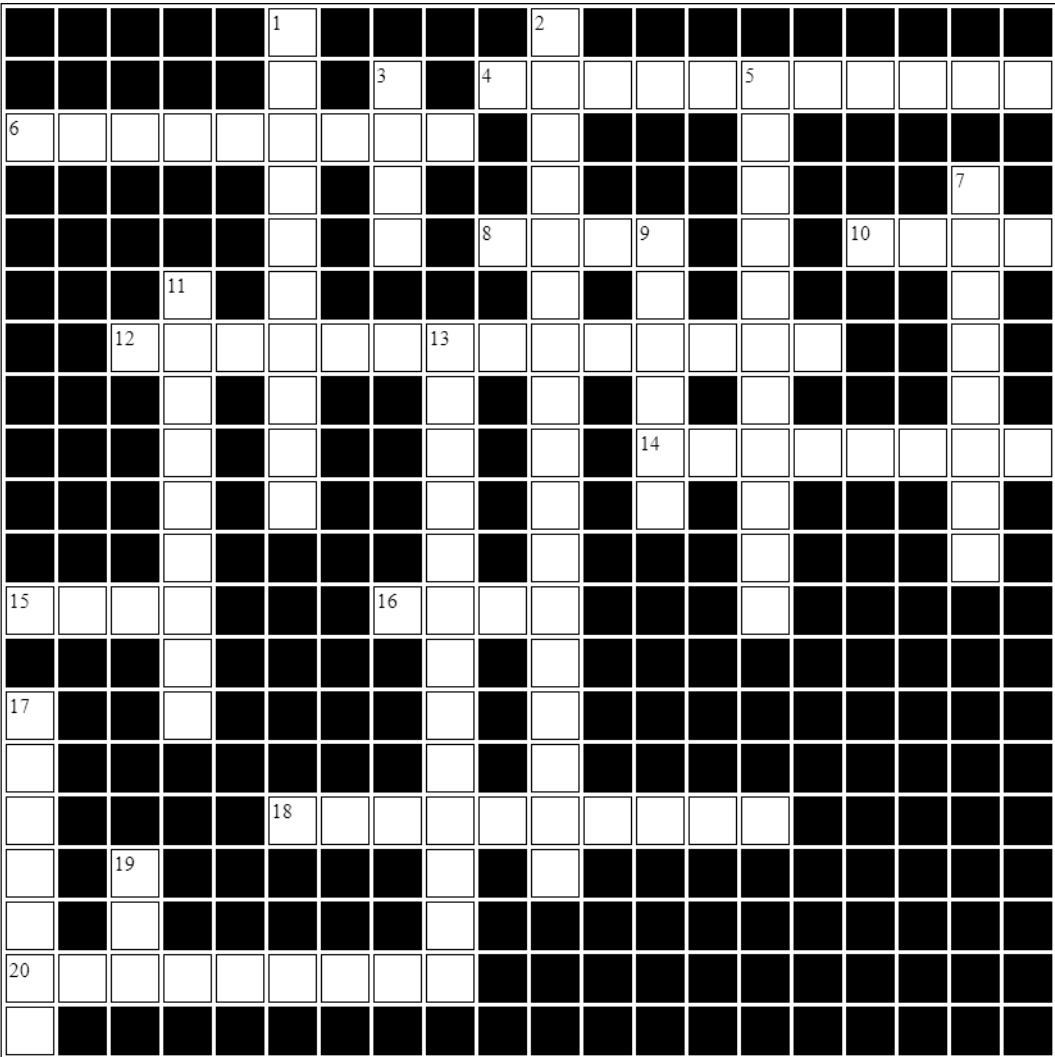
9. stool softner often given after delivery

11. morphine injected into the spinal fluid, keeps pt pain free foe 24 hours

13. instilling fluid (LR) into the uterus to thin meconium or correct variable decelerations

17. instrument used to assist with birth of the feyus by providing traction or to rotate a fetal head


19. applied to fetal scalp(usually) to give direct reading of FHR abbr



ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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Oklahoma and Texas Turn Rivalry into Competition to Fight Food Insecurity



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

Throughout the month of September, the University of Oklahoma Food Pantry will be competing with the University of Texas's food pantry, the UT Outpost, to see which pantry can receive the most shelf-sustainable food.

The competition has been named the "Red River Food Fight" and the winner will be named the "Red River Food Fight Champion."

Matt Marks, campus care coordinator and director of the OU Food Pantry, said they are hoping this competition will help both universities as they try to combat the above-average rates of food insecurity within each of the respective states.

"It's a fun way to celebrate a historic rivalry," Marks said. "There's a lot of competitiveness on the football field, but we are coming together to combat food insecurity and hunger, which plagues both our states. Texas and Oklahoma are two of the hungrier states in our nation and this is a great way to come together to take steps to solve this problem. We've got a great relationship with the pantry down in Texas, and just had great conversations with them to bring this together and unite around a very heated game to try to take care of people within our communities."

Royce Coleman, sophomore biochemistry major in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and OU Food Pantry associate director of campus engagement, said he began having conversations with UT last fall.

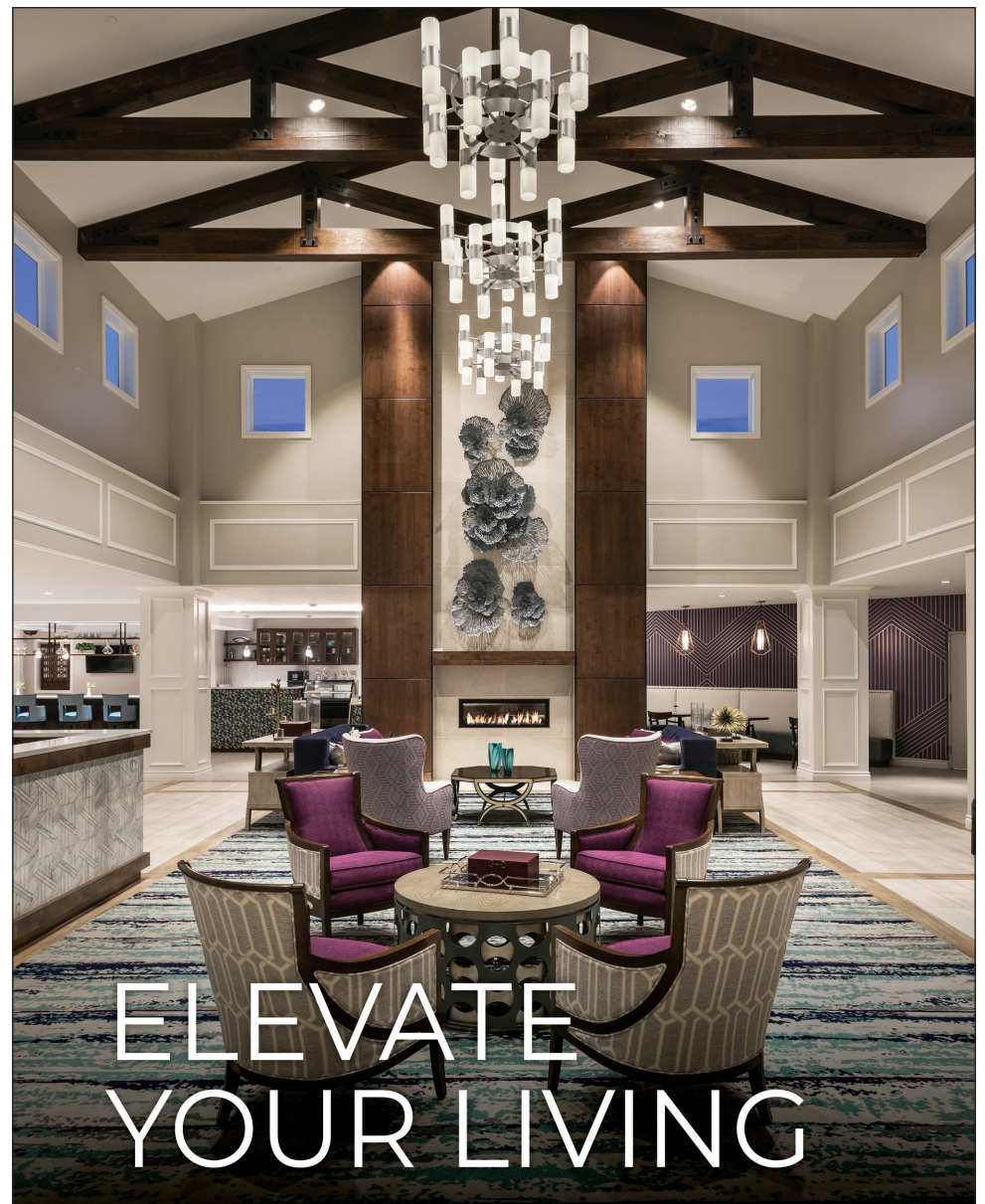
While there was immediate interest, the timeline was too near to effectively execute the drive. But this year, the timing was right.

"The initial goal of the competition was to utilize our historic rivalry and our extremely passionate fanbases toward benefiting both of our food pantries, which in turn would allow us to better provide for our students and staff," Coleman said. "We are hopeful that the many fans of this rivalry (the greatest college rivalry in the nation, if I may say so myself) will join us in promoting this competition and help us combat the food insecurity that exists on our campuses."

Valeria Martin, assistant director for basic needs at the University of Texas at Austin, said there was no hesitation when the OU Food Pantry representatives approached them.

"We were so excited when the OU Food Pantry team approached us with the idea to collaborate in a friendly competition for the benefit of our campus pantries," Martin said. "Our goal for the Red River Food Fight is to raise awareness about UT Outpost in our community. Drawing on the rivalry and competition helps energize our campus around supporting UT Outpost and keeping the pantry stocked while making more students aware of UT Outpost as a resource."

The winner of the Red River Food Fight will be announced on Oct. 7, the day of the Red River Rivalry football game. Boxes to donate canned goods and shelf-sustainable food to the OU Food Pantry have been scattered across campus; donations also may be made directly to the food pantry. Other items and monetary donations are always welcomed but will not go toward the competition.



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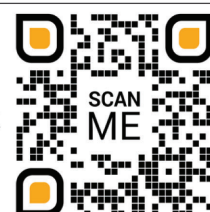
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DOOR PRIZES	Session 1: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Session 2: 1 - 3:30 p.m. Session 3: 3:30 - 6 p.m.
OUT & ABOUT: SPACE WALK	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
SENIORS IN MOTION VIDEO VOTING	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
OKIE STOMPERS	10:05 a.m. & 11 a.m.
BLACK HOLE TOSS	10:35 a.m.
THE MILKY WAY - EXPANSIVE UNIVERSE OR DELICIOUS CANDY	11:30 a.m.
YMCA COMMUNITY TEAM	12 p.m.
LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK COUPLES CHALLENGE . . .	12:50 p.m.
OUT OF THIS WORLD KARAOKE CONTEST	1:20 p.m.
IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE	2:20 p.m.
THE BIG BANG GAME SHOW	3:05 p.m.
SAVE THE FROZEN PLANET	4:30 p.m.
JIM GARLING	5 p.m.
OKLAHOMA CITY SWING DANCE CLUB	5:20 p.m.
ALIEN INVASION	5:55 p.m.
VOCAL SOUNDS OF OKLAHOMA	6:10 p.m.
ELVIS VISITS THE SPACE STATION	6:30 p.m.
SHAWN KLUSH - TRIBUTE TO ELVIS	7:30 p.m.
Chickasaw Country Entertainment Stage	

**For more detailed information visit the Senior Day
page on the Oklahoma State Fair website.**

HSC College of Nursing Welcomes New Leadership Team



submitted by Bethany Kula

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth has welcomed its new College of Nursing leadership team, composed of experts in diverse subject areas ranging from virtual reality training to COVID-19 response policies.

With a commitment to providing high-quality health care, the team will play a pivotal role in the College of Nursing's next steps.



Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, dean of the HSC College of Nursing

"We are excited to welcome the new College of Nursing leadership team to HSC," said Cindy Weston, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CHSE, FAANP, dean of the HSC College of Nursing. "This group exemplifies passion for nursing education and dedication to our mission of creating solutions for a healthier community."

Senior Associate Dean - Elizabeth Wells-Beede, PhD, RN, C-EFM, CHSE-A, CNE, ACUE, FAAN

With more than 15 years of innovative educational experience in nursing, Wells-Beede brings a new level of involvement in academic and clinical settings. She not only is a certified nurse educator but also an advanced certified health care simulation

educator and one of the leading proponents and creators of virtual reality nurse training. She will leverage her experiences at the college in collaboration with HSC's state-of-the-art Regional Simulation Center.

Associate Dean/Chair for Graduate Studies - Cheryl Thaxton, DNP, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAANP

Thaxton brings more than 30 years of experience in nursing, including critical and primary care and nursing leadership. As a graduate of George Washington University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, she spent several years researching the specific needs of children and adults with life-limiting illnesses.

Associate Dean/Chair for Undergraduate Studies - Rebecca Burns, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, ACUE

Burns is an accomplished nursing professional in teaching and research initiatives. Previously a clinical associate professor and Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) coordinator in the Texas A&M University School of Nursing, Burns will ensure nursing students receive the highest quality education and experiences while they excel in their academic journeys at HSC's College of Nursing.

Associate Dean for Research - Tonychris Nnaka, PhD, MPH, RN

Nnaka is an experienced nurse and researcher. He previously served as a policy advisor to Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson on data-driven health decision-making, health disparities and COVID-19 responses. He is an expert in cardiovascular disease health disparities and digital therapeutics.

Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs - Kate Taylor, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CPPS, FNAP

Taylor brings more than 25 years of experience in health care. She is a clinical executive for SaferCare Texas, HSC's patient safety organization, and an assistant

professor in HSC's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. She previously served as a critical care Army Nurse Corps officer.

In February, the UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of the HSC College of Nursing to help address the shortage of nurses in Texas. Then in August, the Board of Regents approved the college's first two degree offerings: a RN to BSN and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Nursing Practice Innovation. The degrees are slated to be offered in fall 2024, when the college's first students will start classes. Both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating



Associate Dean/Chair for Graduate Studies Cheryl Thaxton, DNP, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, CHPPN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAANP



Associate Dean for Research Tonychris Nnaka, PhD, MPH, RN

Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges also must approve the degrees before the new college can begin enrolling students.

For more information about HSC's new College of Nursing, visit www.unthsc.edu/college-of-nursing.



Senior Associate Dean - Elizabeth Wells-Beede, PhD, RN, C-EFM, CHSE-A, CNE, ACUE, FAAN



Associate Dean/Chair for Undergraduate Studies Rebecca Burns, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, ACUE



Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs Kate Taylor, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CPPS, FNAP

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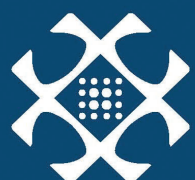
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