Catherine N. Campbell  
Advisor: Megan P. Williams, EdD, MSN, RN, FNP  
Nurses Knowledge of Oropharyngeal Administration of Mother’s Breast Milk in Extremely Low Birth Weight Infants to Prevent NEC  
I chose to go into nursing because nurses can have a large impact on patient experiences. From helping a patient navigate the health care system, to teaching about conditions and treatments, there are infinite possibilities for how nurses can help patients through their illnesses. Apart from this, I am excited by the ways in which the nursing profession is growing and changing and feel that we have the power to help shape the future of health care.

Katherine M. Coury  
Advisor: Victoria Sefca-Jamet, PhD, PMHCNS-NP,BC, FAANP  
Home is for the Making: Participatory Action Research Framework, Environmental Justice, and Implications for Nursing  
First and foremost, I went into nursing because I love people and their stories and wanted to somehow be actively engaged with them every day. Also, I see nursing as a profession unique in its position at the interface of individuals and large systems. The insights from being at such an intersection are essential to making sustainable change.

Miranda Kaitlyn Daniels  
Advisor: Lisa Woody, MSN, RN  
Nurses Preventing Abusive Head Trauma Among Infants and Young Children: A Proposed Prevention Program for North Carolina  
Nursing is much more than a career choice – it is my calling. I chose nursing because it is a career that allows me to serve others and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. I chose to be a nurse so that I could not only help heal people physically, but also emotionally and spiritually when they need it most. My patients feel strengthened, heard, and loved, and that motivates me to continue growing into an excellent nurse.

Crisma J. Emmanuel  
Advisor: Cecelia I. Roscigno, PhD, RN, CNRN  
A Meta-Synthesis of Experiences of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder and that of their Family Members in Acute Care and Inpatient Settings  
I was always interested in the medical field but I believed nursing would allow me to provide care in a manner that took into account the individual from a holistic perspective – taking into account their own personal journey. In addition, the wide variety of career opportunities available to RNs was very attractive since I wanted both the clinical practice with the option of eventually going back and entering the world of academia.

Marco Lorenzo Fajardo*  
Advisor: Coretta Jennette, PhD, RN, CN, AOCN  
Trekking Through Transition: An Exploration of Transition Readiness of Adolescents with Sickle Cell Disease and Self-Reflection of My Transition  
Nursing is a profession based on caring and collaboration. While empathy has been an important personal value, my experiences within nursing school taught me how to utilize this principle in action and to engage in partnership with peers, patients, and their families. Nurses not only provide bedside care, but we educate, advocate, and innovate. I came into nursing school wanting to help people; I leave believing I can support patients and their families during any challenging or vulnerable moments.

Hannah Fischler*  
Advisor: Kathryn R. Altieri, EdD, MSN, RN, ICLC  
Preventing Newborn Injury Through Parent Education on Safe Skin-to-Skin Care  
I am passionate about nursing because of the great impact nurses make on the lives of others. It is a career that focuses on the patient, not necessarily the illness. It is a career where you can make a positive difference in someone’s life, even when his/her medical outcome may not be positive. I discovered my passion for Women’s Health during my clinical rotations at UNC and I am looking forward to a long, rewarding career in the field of nursing.

Clayton Freeman  
Advisor: Anna Beeber, PhD, RN  
A Stakeholder Analysis: Stakeholders’ Perceptions of Chronic Pain Management in Older Adults Who Reside in a Long-Term Care Facility  
Initially I was interested in pursuing a career in nursing because of my global health care interests and experiences. With each semester of nursing school, I discover more avenues in the nursing field that inspire and motivate me to continue learning. I am looking forward to becoming a vital member of the interprofessional health care team where I will be able to advocate for my patients’ physical, psychosocial, and emotional needs. I truly love every aspect of nursing. It is my passion, and I am so excited about the rewarding future that lies ahead.

Mary Killela  
Advisor: Sheila Judge Santacroce, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAANP  
A Case Study Approach to Understanding the Value of Blogging for Social Support in Parents of Children Who Have Completed Cancer-Directed Treatment  
I decided to pursue a career in nursing because I feel that this is a profession that has the unique ability to institute change and positively impact others’ lives. Nurses have the opportunity to be a positive figure in a time when people are most vulnerable and in need of help. I hope to continue to study issues of importance to patients, their families and the nursing profession throughout my career.

* Denotes Highest Honors
BSN CLASS OF 2017
HONORS IN NURSING

Alasia Ledford
Advisor: Julee Waldrop, CPNP, PNP-FAANP
Implementing Screening for Postpartum Depression in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting: A Review of the Literature
To explain why I chose nursing is to explain why I am who I am. Parker J. Palmer describes this sentiment in Let Your Life Speak. He explains that at its deepest level, vocation is "something I can't not do, for reasons I'm unable to explain to anyone else and don't fully understand myself but that are nonetheless compelling." Frederick Buechner asserts "vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need." For me, this place is nursing, the reason why I cannot explain fully, but it compels me nevertheless, so here I am.

Ashleigh Luttrell
Advisor: Julienne Page, EdD, MSN, RN
The Effects of Limited Research on HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors on Medication Administration and Patient Education in the Inpatient Setting
I chose to go into nursing because I want to spread hope. As a teenager, I struggled with a number of health issues. Despite a poor prognosis and an unsuccessful surgery, my nurses were there educating me, encouraging me, and pushing me forward. They gave me hope and I want to share that feeling with as many people as possible.

Emma Elizabeth McFarlane
Advisor: Pat Mahaffee Gingrich, MSN, RN, WHNP-BC
Home is Where the Heart is: A Comparative Analysis of Home Birth Perceptions and Outcomes in the Developed World
I chose to go into nursing to support the birthing family. Throughout my life, I have been in awe of the nurse's role in childbirth and have always wanted to be part of this magical time in a family's life. I feel so honored to be involved in such a beautiful process and to get to work with such amazing families.

Jonathan M. McGee
Advisor: Christina Leonard, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, CNE
Access to Palliative Care in Intensive Care Units and the Role of Nursing in its Promotion
I developed a passion for biomedical ethics during the course of my first degree, a bachelor's of philosophy from the Catholic University of America. As I studied different ethical systems, I discovered that nursing, with its core virtues of patient relationship and advocacy, was the profession best poised to contribute a powerful voice on behalf of patients in ethical quandaries. I want to approach health care, and in particular its ethics, with a nurse's eyes and a nurse's voice.

Bethlehem Meshesha
Advisor: Sandeep Nis, PhD, WHNP-BC, FAAN
Developing a Lifestyle Intervention-Tacking Tool: Evaluating Provider Barriers to Effective Gestational Weight Gain Counseling of Low-Income Obese and Overweight Pregnant Women
I chose nursing as a profession because nursing is a career that fulfills my desire to be well-versed in health sciences and utilize my strengths of compassion and service. I entered my freshman year at UNC Chapel Hill as a biology major with a pre-medicine tract. It was all coming along fine until I began volunteering at UNC Hospitals. It was then I realized the differences in the roles of a physician and a nurse. For the first time, I was able to compare the levels of patient interaction and impact the nurse and patient versus the physician and patient. It was following this experience and much reflection that I decided to change my major to nursing. I knew this choice would not only stimulate my academic mind, but my social desire to serve.

Jennifer Nance*
Advisor: Sheila Judge Santacruz, PhD, RN, CNP-FAANP
Stress, Psycho-neurological Symptoms and Quality of Life during Protective Isolation Related to Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: Does Blogging Help?
I chose nursing in high school when I began meeting and advocating for bone marrow patients as a member of Be the Match national bone marrow registry. At UNC Chapel Hill, my brother and I founded "Be the Match on Campus," which was a subsection of the national organization. Through this, I was allowed an even closer look into the lives of patients who need transplants to live, and it further proved to me that I wanted to do was to be there for them as a nurse while they go through this harrowing process.

Victoria Petermann
Advisor: Cheryl Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN
How the Health Workforce Impacts Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
As a Women’s and Gender Studies major, I grew very passionate about issues surrounding health care access, particularly reproductive health care. I decided to go into nursing so I could be a provider of compassion and quality health care and make a difference in people’s health care experiences at the bedside. In my pursuit of PhD in nursing, I aim to utilize my better understanding of the health care system and skills in research to help shape policy and practice in the field of nursing.

Nora Weatherby
Advisor: Beth Perry Black, PhD, RN
Understanding Perinatal Bereavement in the Setting of Unexpected Loss: A Comprehensive Literature Review
Becoming a nurse is a fulfillment of a focused goal and a continuation of my lifelong commitment to caring for women and families during their childbearing years and throughout the lifespan. The work of a nurse is the work of a servant leader – to offer support, excellent care and insight and to always hold the patient in the light. This is my calling as a Labor and Delivery Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife, and researcher I am grateful to have found my way here.

Noah Williams*
Advisor: Carylck McKenzie, PhD, RN, CNL, CNE
A Pilot Study of Perceived Barriers Among Nursing Staff to Basal-Bolus Insulin as Standard Protocol for Management of Inpatient Hypoglycemia
After a five year career as a retail manager for a growing appliance and electronic retailer, I found that my profession, while rewarding, gave me neither the sense of purpose nor the intellectual challenge I sought from a healthcare career. After much deliberation and research, I decided that nursing was the career that would give me the ability to create the positive impact in the lives of others I desired, as well as allow me to continually learn, grow, and be challenged.

Hannah Elizabeth Wood
Advisor: Beth Perry Black, PhD, RN
Perinatal Loss in Emerging Adults: A Review of the Literature
I chose to go into nursing because I wanted to be a light in one of the darkest times in someone’s life, and I wanted to serve others in the most intimate way. I knew that I had an affinity for science and a passion for health care, which made me stumble upon nursing. Nursing is the perfect combination of critical thinking, skill and compassion, and this is what draw me to the profession the most.

* Denotes Highest Honors