



# member SPOTLIGHT



**Thompson Forbes, PhD, MSN, NE-BC**  
*Assistant Professor, East Carolina University*

Singularity of purpose is what make Thompson Forbes PhD RN so uniquely interesting. It is truly admirable, and almost unheard of, to have an unwavering focus regarding your life's purpose. Yet, Dr. Forbes has always known, that contributing meaningfully, in general, and to the nursing profession in particular, was his personal mission.

Born, raised, living, loving and learning in Greenville, North Carolina, Dr. Forbes is an integral member of the faculty at Eastern Carolina University. He is the Director of the MSN and DNP in Nursing Leadership concentrations. As a child, his fascination with the inner workings of VCR recorders, computers and AM/FM radios fed his curiosity. This naturally led to his inquisitiveness as a leader. "I had questions I wanted to answer, and so I pursued my education". Dr. Thompson is a continual learning, never

stopping as he progressed from an Associate's Degree through obtaining his Doctorate in nursing.

However, he was not always an academician. Having worked at Vidant Medical Center, a 1000 plus bed acute care facility Dr. Forbes held many traditional leadership positions. A uniquely non-traditional opportunity there caused him to re-think his leadership path. He received an invitation to join a multi-disciplinary, inter-professional, internal think tank. As the only nurse in this department, he worked with businessmen, mathematicians, information technologist, and physicists, to find solutions to a myriad of financial, clinical, and systems challenges. This opportunity fueled his imagination. He began thinking about the world differently. Enlightened, he re-imagined his end game; positioning himself to impact a greater number of nurses and the health of Eastern NC, as a university educator.

Dr. Forbes has brought his sense of purpose to ALSN. As one of the organizations newest members, Dr. Forbes feels right at home. His mentor, Dr. Elaine Scott encouraged him to find a like-minded group of people that held the same passion for developing nurse leaders through research and education. Once involved he knew that this is "where I needed to be!" Currently, you can find him working to benefit the organization through his involvement with the membership committee.

Sub-consciously he is drawn to the daring struggles and teamwork of the men portrayed in the movie, The Great Escape (MGM, 1963). Dr. Forbes, could have easily been one of them; researching, reflecting, and innovating ways to escape a Nazi prison camp. No wonder it's his favorite all-time movie. He is a colleague, singular in purpose, and one you will want to get to know.



Which ALSN member do you think we should highlight?  
Let us know by emailing [office@nursingleadershipsience.org](mailto:office@nursingleadershipsience.org)