

## Nurses' Week Profile Haley Becker

By Catherine Dean

Bringing a new life into the world can be both exciting and terrifying, but for Halley Becker, being a labor and delivery nurse is her intense passion.

"I have always wanted to be a nurse," said Becker. "I have a passion for life and helping to bring children into the world is such an incredible and fulfilling career."

Becker earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 2009, from Georgia Southern University (GSU). She is currently enrolled at Georgia College (GC) in the nurse practitioner program.

The rigor of the nursing program at GSU provided Becker with an opportunity to develop new life skills. She says, "I learn hands-on, and that can be very exhausting when doing long hours of clinicals. I had to quickly learn good time management skills to put my life in balance."

Becker recalls an encounter with an elderly, bed-bound patient during one of her clinical rotations. She was assigned to give him a bath—a simple act for most—but for this gentleman it was Becker's kindness that lifted his spirit.

"I was just giving him a routine bath, but he was so grateful for me spending time and caring for his needs," she adds. "His enormous gratitude for that simple act has stayed with me all these years later."

Working in labor and delivery at Navicent Health Baldwin for the past eight years has brought with it many challenges as well as rewards—the joy of new life and the sorrow of when things do not go as planned. As most nurses do, Becker struggles to manage her emotions for the sake of the patient and family.

"I have to put my emotions to the side—no matter how difficult, to be strong for my patients and their families," she observed. "I am naturally empathetic and working with sick children can be quite emotional for all involved."

Becker credits her family for supporting her through her journey to become a nurse as well as her daily challenges as a caregiver.

"I have the most amazing family. My parents, Johnny and Bunnie Simons, supported me financially and emotionally throughout my time at GSU," she said. "And my wonderful husband, Taylor Becker, uplifts me each day with his encouragement."

She also finds great joy when she is approached in the community by families she worked with during labor. She says, "I love when families recognize me as their delivery nurse and want to show their children to me. I take great pride in knowing I had a part in their lives."

In her leisure time, Becker enjoys training for and running half marathons. She has completed two half-marathons and looks forward to participating in more races this year.

