



NURSING NOTES

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Volume II

April 30, 2007

No. 2



Welcome to the spring 2007 issue of **Nursing Notes**, the E-Newsletter for alumni, friends and family of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Nursing.

All of us in the Department of Nursing are pleased to share with you this publication in which a variety of faculty, alumni, student, and staff activities and accomplishments are presented.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the exciting times in the Department as we continue to focus on our commitment to professional nursing education through program quality and student outcomes.

During this past year we have enjoyed wonderful support, financial and otherwise, from alumni and friends of the Department of Nursing.

This has been deeply appreciated and we urge you to continue your support and join us on our journey as we do our part to meet the need for professional nurses in North Carolina.

To learn more about the Nursing Program at UNC Pembroke, visit our Web site at www.uncp.edu/nursing/

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This newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and fall. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed via email to nursing@uncp.edu or via phone at 521-6522.

NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

Fall 2006 Introduction to Professional Nursing Ceremony

On December 7, 2006, the Department of Nursing honored its fall graduates during the "Introduction to Professional Nursing" biannual ceremony. Held in the Chavis University Center, graduates received their nursing pins and accolades from their families, friends, and the nursing faculty. Graduates included: Tammy Faulk, Warren Faulk, Lisa Gilles, Darlene Gold, Joy Hammond, Conchata Jones, Antoinette Kelley, Adrian Lennon, Hope Locklear, Penny Nance, Michelle Norris, Barbara Pridgen, April Smith.

Words of inspiration were offered by Joanne Stevens, MSN, RN, Lobbyist, NCNA Director of State Government Relations. Ms. Stevens motivated the graduates to become active in the nursing profession, as all nurses have responsibility to the profession. We appreciate Ms. Stevens' for her participation in this ceremony.



Southeastern Regional Medical Center gave each graduate a long stem red rose in recognition of their achievement.

Department offers Admission to the Class of 2009

The BSN major at UNCP is fast becoming one of the most sought after majors on campus. Our third pre-licensure BSN class was offered admission in March. Admission to the upper-division pre-licensure BSN option is highly competitive. A total of 70 students were chosen from approximately 200 qualified applicants. The class will formally begin classes on June 28, 2007. A welcome was held April 27, 2007. All members of the class will be involved in new nursing student orientation June 5-8, 2007.

Wachovia Charitable Giving Programs

The Department of Nursing has been awarded a grant of \$75,000 from the Wachovia Charitable Giving Programs. The purpose is to assist the department with increasing nursing workforce diversity and culture competency in the rural, medically underserved southeastern region of North Carolina by providing educational opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The "Bridging the Gap" project will seek to (1) increase retention of students from ethnic/racial minority and disadvantaged backgrounds and (2) achieve a 90% or higher pass rate of graduates on the NCLEX-RN exam of first-time test-takers.

Margaret (Peggy) G. Opitz Earns Professor Emeritus Status



Dr. Peggy Opitz were recently awarded professor emeritus status by the Board of Trustees of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Dr. Peggy G. Opitz is a pioneer in the field of nursing education and in her profession. She was founding director of UNCP's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) for registered nurses program in 1992.

At her retirement in 2005, Dr. Opitz was director of a fully accredited nursing program that was on the edge of yet another expansion. In 2003, the program won a 10-year accreditation without recommendation.

"I love teaching, and I realized the other day that it is what I miss the most," she said in a recent interview. "Teaching is a very rewarding experience. Even though I am retired, I remain active and committed to several projects." To read the full release from the univerisity, visit http://www.uncp.edu/news/2007/jenkins_opitz.htm.

The faculty of the Department of Nursing established the Margaret (Peggy) G. Opitz Endowed Lectureship to honor Dr. Peggy Opitz at the time of her retirement from the University. For information about contributing to the lectureship or any of the endowed nursing scholarships at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at 910.521.6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu.

The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center

The senior class visited The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill on March 13, 2007. This visit was arranged as part of Nursing 445, Adult Health Nursing II.

The junior class was honored to have a guest speaker, Mr. Ernest Grant MSN, RN, from The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center on March 29, 2007. Mr. Grant is Coordinator of the Outreach Program for the burn center. His presentation was part of Nursing 350, Family Nursing II, our pediatric course.

Summer 2007

While our senior students prepare to take the NCLEX and entertain job offers, our current junior class is planning for the summer. The summer between junior and senior years provides several opportunities. Some students choose to use this time to acquire hands on experience, working as Certified Nursing Assistants; others accept internships, observational and educational options; still others catch up on time with family and friends. Here are some examples of what our students will be doing:

Nina Badgett, Brittney Griffin, and Ann Huggins have accepted internships at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in the Observation Unit.

Kimberly Rose Locklear and Ann Lowery have accepted internships at Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

Garrett Straughn has accepted an internship at Duke University Medical Center in the Neurological Intensive Care Unit.

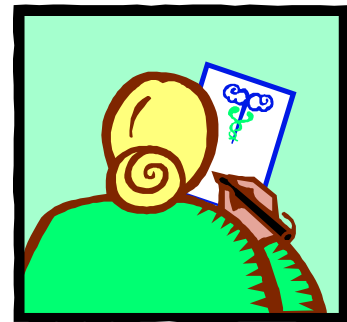
Amanda Titus, as part of Army ROTC, will be involved with Nurse Summer Training Program. Some of her work will be completed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Several others will in a variety of medically related roles in local facilities including: Janet Campbell (Southeaster Regional Medical Center), Kelly Deal (Home Health), Yoni Harris and Denise Mitchell (Womack Army Medical Center), Kellie Locklear (Native Angels Homecare Agency), Benjamin McMillan (Lumberton Children's Clinic), Amanda McNickle (Scotland Memorial Hospital), April Scott (Moore Regional), Claudia Thomas (Nursing Home).

National NCLEX Pass Rates

As seniors begin to fill out job applications and attend job interviews, they are quickly finding out they have decisions to make. Many are being offered jobs from more than one facility. Before they can begin work, they must first pass the NCLEX examination as set forth by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

According to the NCSBN web site, entry into the practice of nursing in the United States and its territories is regulated by the licensing authorities within each jurisdiction. To ensure public protection, each jurisdiction requires a candidate for licensure to pass an examination that measures the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as a newly licensed, entry-level registered nurse. In 2006, 88.3% of first time test takers passed the exam and were issued licenses to practice as registered nurses in their respective states or jurisdictions (<https://www.ncsbn.org/245.htm>).



Focused Care Experience

As part of Nursing 451, Transition into Professional Nursing: A Capstone Experience, the senior class must complete 120 hours of clinical experience with a BSN prepared preceptor. The 120 hours of focused care is mandated by the NC Board of Nursing and will be mandatory of all RN programs in the state beginning 2008. Students are placed with a preceptor based on individual clinical needs as identified by the Assessment Technologies Institute, LLC (ATI) Comprehensive predictor standardized testing exam (see information on ATI below). Facilities being utilized include Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, First Health of the Carolinas, Womack Army Medical Center, and Scotland Health Care System.

Year Round Learning Enhancement Program

The Department of Nursing began the initial phase of a Year Round Learning Enhancement Program (YRLEP) in January. The purpose of the program is to facilitate students' successful

progression through the nursing program by providing additional academic and learning assistance activities outside of the classroom environment.

The initial phase includes a year-round remediation program in which all students are encouraged to participate. However, students scoring below the department's desired proficiency level on end of course standardized testing are required to attend. Future phases are anticipated to include a learning assistance program, peer advisement program, tutoring sessions, critical thinking workshops, and guidance counseling advice.

NCNA Day at the Legislature

The North Carolina Nurses' Association (NCNA) held its annual Day at the Legislature on March 27th. Several students from the Prelicensure track attended as part of their Nursing 445, Adult Health Nursing II course. RN-BSN students taking Nursing 300, Transition to Professional Nursing who participated include: Emily Davis, Jennifer Horne, Christina Kuysley, Marshirl Locklear, Kenyett Moody, Gracie Stephens, and Sophia Thompson. RN-BSN students taking Nursing 412, Leadership in Nursing who participated include: Katara Chavis, Lisa Dial, June Hopkins, and Curnissie Locklear. Continuing Education contact hours were given to registered nurses for this event. In addition to attending scheduled activities of the day, students also met with their District Representatives.

Juniors Participate in Workshop

On February 23rd, the junior class joined employees of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center to learn more about the grief process and nursing care during infant loss. The conference, Loss of an Infant: A Parent's Perspective, was presented by Ms. Lori Farmer and a panel of parents who have experienced infant loss. Through their personal stories, the panel taught nursing care from the patient perspective. The workshop was sponsored by the Bereavement Committee of Cape Fear. Students participated in this workshop as part of their Nursing 345, Family Nursing I, course.

Child Advocacy Center of Fayetteville



As part of Nursing 350, Family Nursing II, students attended a workshop conducted by the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Fayetteville. *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* was presented by Stefanie Szwejbka, MCJ, MDT, Education Coordinator, and Stacy Pendarvis, MSW, Prevention/Awareness Coordinator from the CAC. After completing the workshop, each student was presented with a certificate of completion. Thanks to the CAC for providing this educational opportunity!

NOTABLE TECHNOLOGY

Simulation Labs Get New Equipment

In an effort to enhance student learning, our simulation labs have been adding new equipment. Mrs. Donna Cutrell, Clinical Learning Center Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, has prepared several learning opportunities. They include:

- Total Care and Sport Beds to replace the original beds in our labs, 4 bedside tables
- 3 Simon/Susie basic care with ostomy mannikins, Patty Patient mannikin, Advanced Grandma Chase mannikin, Chest Tube Mannikin, Heart and Lung sounds 5-year old mannikin, and Larry Head intubation mannikin.
- Buttocksmate and Musclemate IM injection models, 5 venipuncture training aids, 3 Venatech IM and SQ simulators, 1 Life/form Intradermal Injection Simulator, 2 Advanced IV hands, 6 injection teaching models, 1 pediatric IV arm, and 1 deluxe venous access device model Auto Syringe Infusion Pump, PCA Syringe Pump, 2 Flo-Gard 6201 Infusion Pumps.
- 1 male and female urinary catheter model set, GloGerm Kit, Kangaroo Gastrostomy Feeding Tube w/Y-Ports, 2 Portable Suction Machines, 1 Handheld audiometer, 2 Deluxe biology skeletons, 1 Ostomy Care Simulator, 2 Heart and Lung Sounds full size adult torsos, and 1 Ear Exam Simulator.
- Laryngoscope Set, Color-Coded Guedel Oral Airway Kit, adult and pediatric tracheostomy care models, AED Little Anne LINK Training System, Vital Signs Monitor with NIBP, Nelcor Pulse Oximetry, Temperature, and Printer, Elite 200 Doppler with 3 and 5 MHz probes, Broselow Pediatric resuscitation, Medication/Infusion Guide and Broselow/Hinkle Flying Carpet

Critical Care Lab

The Clinical Learning Center is located on the campus of Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC), for both pre-licensure and RN-BSN students. The Clinical Learning Center houses five individual labs: the **Basic Care Lab**, the **Health Assessment Lab**, the **Howard and Brenda Brooks Home Care Lab**, the **Maternal/Child Lab**, and the **Critical Care Lab**. Each lab is equipped for student simulation learning related to healthcare situations with clients of diverse cultures across the lifespan. The Clinical Learning Center is available to students twelve hours a day, six days a week.

This issue of **Nursing Notes** focuses on the **Critical Care Lab**. When you enter the Critical Care Lab, you are greeted by Sim Man, a portable and advanced patient simulator for team training. SimMan has realistic anatomy and clinical functionality. SimMan provides simulation-based education to challenge and test students' clinical and decision-making skills during realistic patient care scenarios (<http://www.laerdal.com/>).



Additionally, the Critical Care Lab is equipped with four advanced care bed units and two adult mannequins. Future plans are to equip a mounted video camera and a PC at the foot of each bed.

WORTH NOTING

Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

Ms. Rosemarie Pilarczyk, Assistant Professor, received her MSN as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist from Kent State University in 1979 and her Masters in Technical Education with a Primary Focus in Adult Education from the University of Akron in 1980. She is currently enrolled in as a Doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of West Florida. Her clinical strengths include diabetes, orthopedics, hypertension, and mental health. Ms. Pilarczyk joined the faculty in January 2007.

Faculty and Staff Notations

All faculty attended a workshop sponsored by Southeastern Regional Area Health Education Center entitled *Developing Clinical Learning Experiences: A Primer for Clinical Faculty* on December 12, 2006. The speaker was Dr. Donna Bailey from the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ms. Cherry Beasley has been elected Chair of the Board for the NC Center for Nursing. The Mission of the North Carolina Center for Nursing is to assure that the State of North Carolina has the nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of its citizens. The North Carolina Center for Nursing is a recognized leader in nurse workforce research, long-range planning and policy development, and comprehensive recruitment and retention efforts. The Center for Nursing, through the pursuit of innovation and excellence, serves as a model for similar initiatives throughout the nation and the world.

Ms. Cherry Beasley, Ms. Dena A. Evans, and Ms. Cynthia H. Herndon have been selected to participate in the APTR/AAC&U project, Public Health and Liberal Education. Twenty-three institutional teams from across the U.S. will participate in the July 9-10, 2007 workshop in Washington, DC. The workshop will provide an introduction to a public health perspective on liberal learning and give faculty the opportunity to intensively explore the curricular frameworks for three recommended public health courses: Introduction to Public Health (Public Health 101); Introduction to Epidemiology (Epidemiology 101); and Introduction to Global Health (Global Health 101). Approval to participate in this project stems from a proposal written by the team.

Ms. Donna Cutrell, Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Learning Center Coordinator, attended the North Carolina Board of Nursing 4th Annual Education Summit entitled *Expand Your Toolbox: Strategic Use of Informatics* on April 2, 2007 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, NC.

Ms. Donna Cutrell, Ms. Lori Farmer, Ms. Meki Graham, Ms. Cynthia Herndon, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Ms. Michelle Rupard, Ms. Doretha Singley, Ms. Joyce Stanley, Ms. Marge Swierz, and Ms. Jennifer Twaddell, Assistant Professors, attended a workshop entitled, *Critical Thinking and Test Construction* on April 14, 2007 in Chapel Hill, NC.

Ms. Dena Evans, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Ms. Rosemarie Pilarczyk, Ms. Michelle Rupard, Ms. Doretha Singley, Ms. Joyce Stanley, and Ms. Marge Swierz, Assistant Professors, attended the 2007 Lilly South Conference, *College and University Teaching: Blueprint for Student Learning*.

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, presented *Loss of an Infant: A Parent's Perspective* on February 23, 2007 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. In addition to Ms. Farmer's presentation, a panel of parents who have experienced infant loss also shared their personal stories. The workshop was sponsored by the Bereavement Committee of Cape Fear.

Ms. Cynthia Herndon, Assistant Professor, co-authored two articles in the December issue of the journal of the International Institute for General Systems Studies, *Scientific Inquiry*. The articles can be viewed at <http://www.iigss.net/Scientific-Inquiry/Dec06/table-dec06.htm>. The titles are: *United States Low Birth Weight Since 1950: Distributions, Impacts, Causes, Costs, Patterns, Mathematical Models, Prediction and Prevention Part I* by Greaver, Wei, Marson, Herndon, and Rogers; *United States Low Birth Weight Since 1950: Distribution, Impacts, Causes, Costs, Patterns, Mathematical Models, Prediction and Prevention Part II* by Wei, Greaver, Marson, Herndon, and Rogers.

Ms. Jennifer Johnson and Ms. Marge Swierz, Assistant Professors, presented a poster presentation at the 2007 Lilly South Conference, *College and University Teaching: Blueprint for Student Learning*. The presentation was a culmination of the work conducted by Ms. Johnson, Ms. Twaddell, and Ms Swierz on *Ipods: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice*.

Ms. Michelle Rupard, Assistant Professor, attended the National Alliance of Legal Nurse Consultants annual conference in Orlando, Florida in March. The conference provided continuing education required to maintain active certification in legal nurse consulting.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Department Chair, and **Ms. Joyce Stanley**, Assistant Professor attended the ATI regional educator conference, "Innovative Approaches to the Use of a Comprehensive Assessment and Review Program" in Orlando, Florida in March.

CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

Noteworthy Students

The following students made the **Chancellor's List: Leah Renee Stanley and Darcy M. Whitsitt**. To qualify for the Chancellor's List, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.7 (out of 4.0) while taking at least 15 semester hours.

http://www.uncp.edu/news/2007/honors_list_dec_2006.htm

The following students made the **Honors List: Nina P. Badgett, Maleia Carter Bellamy, Jennifer Ann Berenics, Briana Vera Boyd, Brittney Lucille Griffin, Brooke Howie Grooms, Jennifer Jeanette Henley, Kathryn Humphrey Dries, Kellie Locklear, Quawanna Lynn Locklear, Bobbi Ann Maynor, Ciara Nicole Patterson, Linda S. Smith, and Sarah Elizabeth Taylor.** To qualify for the Honors List, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 while taking at least 15 semester hours.

http://www.uncp.edu/news/2007/honors_list_dec_2006.htm

Kathryn Humphrey Dries from the pre-licensure track and **Michelle Norris**, RN from the RN-BSN track received the department's Nursing Excellence Award during the University's annual Awards Day. The Nursing Excellence award is given to the student who has the highest Grade Point Average and exemplifies the BSN philosophy for the program demonstrating excellence in nursing. Ms. Dries will be graduating spring 2007. Ms. Norris graduated in December 2006 and is employed by Columbus Regional Health Care System.

Cynthia Stafford from the pre-licensure track and **Antoinette Kelley**, RN from the RN-BSN track received the department's Nursing Practice Award during the University's annual Awards Day. The Nursing Practice award is given by the faculty to the nursing student who has demonstrated excellence in theory and application of nursing theories. Ms. Stafford will be graduating spring 2007. Ms. Kelley graduated in December 2006 and is employed by Columbus Regional Health Care System.

Garrett Straughn, a rising senior in the pre-licensure program, was recently elected Director of District 5 for the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS). District 5 incorporates 15 ADN and BSN nursing programs across the southeastern portion of North Carolina. As a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Straughn will serve a term of one full year. There are two conferences held each year by NCANS as well as a national convention. This year's national convention was in Anaheim, California April 10-17.

Noteworthy Alumni

Calling all alumnae!! We want to hear from you. Please send your personal and career updates so that we might highlight you in the next issue of Nursing Notes. We are interested in marriages, births, professional development, school activities, work related activities, etc. This information may be submitted via email to nursing@uncp.edu or via phone at 521-6522.

EVENTS AND LINKS – TAKE NOTE!

Dates to Remember

May 4, 2007 – Spring Introduction to Professional Nursing Ceremony

May 5, 2007 – Spring Commencement

June 5-8, 2007 – New Pre-licensure BSN Student Orientation

May 23 – June 27, 2007 – Summer Session I

June 28 – August 2, 2007 – Summer Session II

August 15, 2007 – Fall 2007 Semester Begins

October 13, 2007 – University wide Open House

October 18 – 20, 2007 – Fall Break

November 17, 2007 – University wide Open House