



Welcome to the Fall 2006 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.

The Department of Nursing is a center of activity as you will see in this e-newsletter. Without a doubt, this is a time of growth and change for us! Enrollment in both the pre-licensure and RN-BSN tracks is growing rapidly. Currently there are 148 students enrolled. In addition, there are another 500+ students who have declared Nursing as their major at UNCP. Faculty has doubled in size since 2005. Many of the faculty are students also, enrolled in post-master's and doctoral programs.

Our theme for 2006-2007 is "On a Journey to Achieve Excellence"; thus, continuing our focus on program quality and student outcomes. To us, program quality is not just an academic exercise but a commitment to public health and safety through the preparation of skilled nurse clinicians and leaders for the nursing profession.

We appreciate the support you have provided the Department of Nursing in the past. I 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/

Barbara B. Synowicz, PhD, RN
Chair, Department of Nursing
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NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

Dr. Betty Johnson, Guest Lectureship Speaker

Betty M. Johnson R.N., Ph.D., who wrote the book on nursing education, brought her crusade to UNC Pembroke April 20 for the 14th annual guest lectureship at the Nursing Department. Dr. Johnson is pictured below, center, with Ms. Cherry Beasley (L) and Dr. Barbara Synowiez (R).



Author of “An Introduction to Theory and Reasoning in Nursing” (Lippincott; 2001), Dr. Johnson had strong advice for faculty of UNCP’s nursing programs.

“As faculty, urge your students from the first day to continue their education,” she said. “Ask them what school they plan to attend and what specialty they will study, and then ask them again.”

Dr. Johnson’s own career is evidence of the difficulties for nurses to continue their education.

“Nurses seem to ‘stop-out,’” she said. “If I had not stopped-out, I would have had 11 more years of practice at the highest level of nursing education.”

Dr. Johnson earned an associate degree in 1951, BSN in 1955, MSN in 1962 and Ph.D. in 1970. Stoppages aside, her career carried her across the U.S. and around the world on missions from rebuilding a nursing school in earthquake-ravaged Nicaragua to building a nursing program in Appalachia.

“Sometimes you need to do something just because you want to - because it satisfies some of the feelings you have,” she said. “I wanted to start a nursing program in the Appalachia region of Virginia. That program led to the development of 25 nurse practitioners who made a big difference in health care of the area.”

That program at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise is one of several posts Dr. Johnson held in higher education. In her retirement, she consults for universities including UNC Pembroke, said Cherry Beasley, a member of UNCP’s nursing faculty.

“Dr. Johnson is a national figure in nursing education, and she is a special friend to our department,” Beasley said.

Dr. Johnson is a strong advocate for nursing education, which she said has a history that is both pleasing and challenging for the future of the profession.

Spring 2006 Introduction To Professional Nursing Ceremony

The UNCP Department of Nursing honored spring graduates during the annual “Introduction to Professional Nursing “ Ceremony on May 4, 2006 in the University Center Lounge on the campus of UNCP. Four RN-BSN candidates received their nursing pin and congratulations from Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Interim Chair of the Department of Nursing and Department of Nursing faculty, marking the end of their BSN completion program at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the beginning of a new and exciting state in their nursing career; that of commitment to professional nursing.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Ms. Teresa Barnes, RN, MSN, Vice President, Patient Care Services for Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Ms. Barnes spoke on the topic of Current Issues in Healthcare, including the nursing shortage and need for more Bachelors prepared nurses. Additionally, Ms. Barnes presented each graduate with a long-stem red rose from Southeastern Regional Medical Center as since our first graduating RN-BSN class.

Members of the spring 2006 graduating class include Virginia Faith Benton, Shinnal April Locklear, Crystal Lynn Moore, and Lori Wiggins. Congratulations to our graduates!

Notable Technology

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 **Health Assessment Lab**. The Health Assessment Lab is equipped with six complete exam units and multiple simulation practice models. Privacy is provided with curtains and drapes, just as in a doctor’s office. Students can practice on each other in a private, hands-on clinical setting with new examination tables, mounted ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes and the convenience of instructors available when needed. Learning is a realistic setting reinforces correct technique and procedure.

The Health Assessment Lab is primarily used for lab practice during Nursing 303, Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice, and Nursing 320, Health Assessment Across the Lifespan.



THE GIFT OF ENDOWMENTS

UNC Pembroke and Cape Fear Valley Health System form Scholarship Link

UNC Pembroke and Cape Fear Valley Health System (CFVHS) of Fayetteville, N.C., the region's largest health care provider, have forged an alliance based on their mutual interest in the promotion of nursing education.



CFVHS Chief Executive Officer Richard H. Parks, pictured second from the right, visited UNCP on July 10 to tour the campus and discuss a \$110,000 gift for two nursing scholarship programs. The scholarships will boost nursing in the region by providing financial aid to students and to nurses seeking advanced degrees.

Parks is hopeful that this is the beginning of a partnership between the two institutions.

"I expect a long and fruitful relationship," he said. "We felt like this would be a good relationship to embark upon."

With a nationwide nursing shortage, CFVHS and its four hospitals stand to benefit from UNCP's new nursing program, said Dr. Breeden Blackwell, pictured far left, who is a Cumberland County commissioner and a trustee of both UNCP and CFVHS.

"This means additional nurses for Cape Fear Valley hospitals," Dr. Blackwell said. "This is a natural marriage that will turn out to be something good. We know it can work, and it will work."

Endowed Nursing Scholarships

It is the hope of the Department of Nursing to annually increase the number of permanently endowed scholarships created for the Department by alumni, friends, and parents. These scholarships will forever provide needed financial support to students enrolled in educational offerings of the Department of Nursing. A fully funded endowed scholarship is created with a gift of \$5,000 or more.

Endowed Nursing Lectureship

As with endowed scholarships, a fully funded endowed lectureship is created with a gift of \$5,000 or more. Interest received annually from donations received for the lectureship will forever provide support for the Department to bring a national nursing leader to campus for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department hear speak on trends and issues facing nursing education, practice, and research.

Margaret (Peggy) G. Opitz Endowed Nursing Lectureship



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. Opitz retired in March 2005 after being with the University since 1992. Dr. Opitz, as many of you know, was instrumental in bringing baccalaureate education to southeastern North Carolina.

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.

WORTH NOTING

Welcome New Faculty

Ms. Dena Evans joins our faculty for Fall 2006 as Assistant Professor. Ms. Evans received her BSN from Gardner-Webb University and her Master's in Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is currently enrolled at N.C.State University pursuing an EdD. Ms. Evans' background includes education in both the North Carolina public school and community college systems.

Ms. Meki Jacobs Graham joined our faculty Summer 2006 as Assistant Professor of Nursing. Ms. Graham received her A.D.N. from Southeastern Community College, BSN from UNC-Pembroke, and MSN in Nursing Education from Duke University. Her background includes medical/surgical, IV team, critical care, and Emergency Services. Ms. Graham also worked in the community college system.

Ms. Doretha Singley, re-joined our faculty as Assistant Clinical Professor of Nursing, Fall 2006. Ms Singley received her BSN and MSN from the University of Maryland. She is currently enrolled as a PhD Nursing Student at Hampton University. Her nursing background includes Perioperative nursing, labor and delivery, and postpartem. Welcome Back, Ms. Singley!

Ms. Marge Swierz joins our faculty for Fall 2006 as Assistant Clinical Professor. Ms. Swierz received both her BSN and MSN from Hunter College. She completed her Certification in Nursing Education from UNC Chapel Hill. Ms. Swierz's background includes Ambulatory surgery, PACU, and teaching in Duke University's accelerated BSN program.

Faculty And Staff Notations

Ms. Cherry Beasley, Assistant Professor, was recognized as an Honorary Inductee in UNCPs local chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the Premier National Honor Society for adult students in higher education on April 12, 2006.

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, attended the 2006 Current Topics in Genomics Short Course in August. She was selected to attend from a large pool of applicants. Ms. Farmer took a senior nursing student, Ms. Terri Herbert, with her to this conference in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference was sponsored by The National Human Genome Research Institute, a branch of the National Institutes of Health. Subsequently, Ms. Farmer and Ms. Twaddell took 10 senior nursing students to Chapel Hill in September for the Community Genetics Forum. This 3-day forum was also sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Ms. Deborah Groves, Assistant Professor, was accepted into the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of South Carolina. She began classes Fall 2006.

Ms. Cynthia Herndon has been appointed to the UNC-Pembroke Alumni Association. She attended a Student Networking luncheon on September 20, 2006 along with other alumni to answer questions of current students. Ms. Herndon is pictured here, second from the left.



Faculty and Staff Transitions

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Associate Professor and BSN Coordinator, assumed the role of Chair, Department of Nursing, effective October 2006. Congratulations, Dr. Synowiez!

CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

Noteworthy Students

The following RN-BSN and Prelicensure students were inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, the Premier National Honor Society for adult students in higher education on April 12, 2006. Congratulations on this achievement!

RN-BSN students: **Christine Elliott and Antoinette Kelley**

Senior Prelicensure students: **Brooke Grooms, Tabatha Hastings, Laurie Oliver, Ciara Patterson, Cynthia Stafford, and Cardia Wilson.**

Junior Prelicensure students: **Nina Badgett, Kimberly Rose Locklear, April Scott, Leah Stanley, Corinne Swink, and Amanda Titus.**

Terri Herbert, senior pre-licensure student, attended the 2006 Current Topics in Genomics Short Course in August. Ms. Herbert was selected to attend the course along with Ms. Farmer, though sessions were geared toward students and faculty separately. The conference was sponsored by The National Human Genome Research Institute, a branch of the National Institutes of Health.

Kelly Avant, Jessica Bell, Karen Casiano, Jessica Hasty, Jennifer Henley, Stephen Mantzouris, Ciara Patterson, Tathy Sanabria, Cynthia Stafford, Cardia Wilson, senior pre-licensure students, attended the Community Genetics Forum in Chapel Hill in September. This 3-day forum was sponsored by The National Human Genome Research Institute, a branch of the National Institutes of Health.

Pamela Francis, Yoni Harris, Tony Hunt, and Corinne Swink, members of the junior pre-licensure class, joined Ms. Stanley for the annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk at Luther Britt Park on October 14, 2006. They raised over \$300.00 in donations for this worth-while cause.

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

November 18, 2006 – University Wide Open House

December 6, 2006 – Angel of Hope candle light service, downtown Fayetteville

December 7, 2006 – Pinning, our Introduction to Professional Nursing Fall 2006 Ceremony

December 9, 2006 - Graduation

January 15, 2007 – Deadline for submission of applications for pre-licensure Class of 2009

February 17, 2007 – University Wide Open House

April 21, 2007 – University Wide Open House

May 5, 2007 – Graduation for our first pre-licensure class

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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.