



NURSING NOTES

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Welcome back and Happy Fall!! I am very pleased to present the Fall 2007 issue of **Nursing Notes**, the E-Newsletter for students, alumni, friends, and family of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Nursing.

The E-Newsletter is a forum to showcase our outstanding students, faculty, alumni and their accomplishments. During such fast paced times, it is easy to forget to share the important things going on in our Department of Nursing. Our goal is to provide you with our important news, while it is still newsworthy. In this issue, you will find information on all of the exciting events occurring at the UNCP Department of Nursing since spring 2007.

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
Associate Professor

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NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

UNCP Graduates 1st Pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Class

The Department of Nursing at UNC Pembroke passed two major milestones in May, 2007 when it graduated its first class of pre-licensure, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and received full approval from the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

Thirty-six pre-licensure students graduated as part of the University's May 5 commencement ceremony. Nine students from UNCP's RN-BSN program also received degrees.

It was the largest graduating class for the Department of Nursing since its inception in 1992, said Dr. Barbara Synowiez, chair of the Department of Nursing.

"This was a very special day for us," Dr. Synowiez said. "This event was the culmination of several years of hard work by officials at the University, the Nursing faculty as well as the students in our first graduating class.

"Our pioneer class has set a standard for excellence and is prepared to serve the nursing profession in North Carolina and the nation for many years in the future," she said.

UNCP's pre-licensure program had earned initial approval from the North Carolina Board of Nursing in 2004, and with its first graduating class, received full approval on May 18.

"This is a very thorough process that included a site visit, interviews of faculty and students, reviews of the curriculum, faculty, and students," Dr. Synowiez said. "For us, this is really significant, and we will not be surveyed again for three years."

The Nursing students who comprised the first pre-licensure class on the average were diverse. On the whole, they were older than typical undergraduates, and many had prior college experience and/or degrees. Many worked part-time, lived off campus and juggled family and work responsibilities, as well as hours of homework.

Members of the spring 2007 pre-licensure BSN graduating class include Kelly Avant, Jessica Bell, Maleia Bellamy, Cynthia Brewer, Rosemary Burns, Dovie Carter, Karen Casiano, Belinda Chavis, Tammy Chavis-Watson, Shernett Chung, Brooke Curro, Briana Boyd Dahl, Anthony Davis, Kathryn Humphrey Dries, Deloris Emanuel, Helena Emanuel, Jason Godaire, Tatiana Goncharova, Brooke Grooms, Tabatha Hastings, Jessica Hasty, Terri Hebert, Jennifer Henley, Janine Hepler, Jason Jones, Ann Marie Locklear, Delinda Locklear, Natalie Locklear, Stephen Mantzouris, Bobbi Maynor, Kelly McLellan, Laurie Oliver, Ciara Patterson, Engle Revels, Tathy Sanabria, Cynthia Stafford, Cardia Wilson.

In addition to the pre-licensure BSN graduates, the following RN-BSN students achieved their baccalaureate degrees: Tamara Brown RN, Lisa Dial RN, Susan Inman RN, Valerie Jacobs RN, Bobbi Smith RN, Chastity Townsend RN, Joan Vasilik RN, and Sara Williams RN.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Spring 2007 Introduction to Professional Nursing Ceremony

The UNCP Department of Nursing honored spring graduates during the annual “Introduction to Professional Nursing” Ceremony on May 4, 2007 in the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of UNCP. A total of thirty-eight Bachelor of Science in Nursing candidates received their nursing pin and congratulations from Dr. Barbara Synowicz, Chair of the Department of Nursing and Department of Nursing faculty. Guest speaker for the ceremony was Dr. Virginia Adams who offered thought and inspiration on the topic of “The Penguin Challenge: Change and Leadership”



Dr. Adams is Dean of the School of Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Prior to her current position, she was interim dean of the College of Nursing at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City, Tenn. She has also served as chair and associate professor in the Family/Community Nursing Department at ETSU, and as a tenured professor of maternal child nursing at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU).

Dr. Adams earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from WSSU, a master's in maternal child nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a doctorate in child development/family relations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a member of the New Hanover County Board of Health, North Carolina Center for Nursing's board of directors, North Carolina Dean's Council, North Carolina Nurse Scholars Commission, and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Taskforce on the Nursing Shortage. Additionally, Dr. Adams is a member of the American Nurses Association, North Carolina Nurses Association, National League of Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Nursing Education.

<http://media.www.fsuvoice.com/media/storage/paper1148/news/2007/10/24/News/Additions.Made.To.Bolster.Nursing.Program.At.Fsu-3053659.shtml>

UNCP Professor to Chair N.C. Center for Nursing

Cherry Beasley, a nursing professor at UNC Pembroke, was elected recently to a two-year term as chair of Board of Directors for the North Carolina Center for Nursing (NCCN).

Beasley has served on NCCN's board for four years as an appointee of the UNC Board of Governors. Previously, she was elected vice chair by the 16-member board.

The Center for Nursing was created by an act of the North Carolina General Assembly to advise the legislature and the governor's office on nursing workforce issues. NCCN conducts workforce research, long-range planning and policy development and comprehensive nursing recruitment and retention efforts.



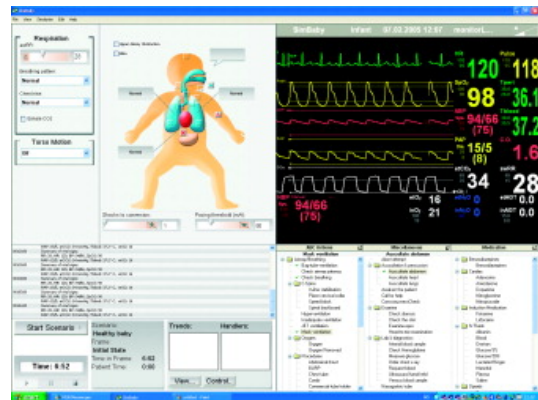
“The nursing faculty shortage is the number one priority facing us today,” Beasley said. “The Center for Nursing was the first agency of its kind in the nation, and we are called on to present our research at many national venues.”

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 **Maternal/Child Lab**. The Maternal/Child Lab is equipped with one laboring bed unit and a special obstetrical mannequin. There is a newborn radiant warmer, a neonatal intensive care unit isollette, and numerous bassinets. Two pediatric bed units as well as pediatric mannequins are available. Mannequins have audible and programmable capabilities to enhance student learning. The maternal/child lab features equipment used to assist premature and sick infants as well as what is expected normally.

A recent addition to the **Maternal/Child Lab** is SimBaby. SimBaby is an advanced simulator for training in infant emergencies. It is portable and equipped for infant/patient simulation for team training. SimBaby has realistic anatomy and clinical functionality that enables simulation training. SimBaby includes software with video debriefing and an interactive technologically advanced manikin allowing learners to practice the emergency treatment of pediatric patients.



THE GIFT OF ENDOWMENTS

Robert L. and Anne S. Zucker Endowed Professorship

A Raleigh, North Carolina couple has founded an endowed professorship in the Department of Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The gift agreement was announced on November 6 at UNCP's Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) nursing campus in Lumberton, N.C. Nearly 50 enthusiastic nursing students welcomed the news from the audience. Also present for the announcement were UNCP Board of Trustees Chair Breeden Blackwell, UNCP Board of Trustees Dick Taylor and Dr. Raymond Pennington, SRMC CEO Joanne Anderson and Vice Presidents, David Sumner, Teresa Barnes and Morris Bullock, and nursing faculty.



Robert L. and Anne S. Zucker established the \$250,000 endowment as part of a charitable trust. It will perpetually fund a nursing faculty position. Upon receipt of the gift, UNCP is eligible to apply for a dollar-for-dollar match as part of the North Carolina General Assembly's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund.

The Zuckers, owners of Outdoor Equipment Distributors, Inc., established similar gifts for nursing programs at UNC-Chapel Hill and East Carolina University. They also fund a scholarship program at NC State University.

"We selected nursing because it is a profession that helps people and that goes with our business philosophy," Robert Zucker said. "People don't often think of nursing schools, but nurses help a lot of people."

The family has ties to UNC-Chapel Hill and East Carolina, but none with UNCP before the gift. The Zuckers are friends of UNCP Board of Trustees Chair Breeden Blackwell, a 1968 graduate. "There is no question this gift will benefit the University, its students and patients in our region," Dr. Blackwell said.

Pictured above with Mr. and Mrs. Zucker are faculty members Lori Farmer, Deborah Groves, Dr. Barbara Synowicz, Cherry Beasley, and Cynthia Herndon.

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. Thelma Bates Floyd, Assistant Professor, received her MSN Degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and her BSN from the University of Maryland. She is currently completing her PhD in Health Administration from the University of Phoenix. Her clinical strengths include psychiatric nursing, nursing administration and occupational health related entities.

Faculty and Staff Notations

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, was part of the Region 3 Genetics and Newborn Screening Collaborative, both on the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant Steering committee overall, as well as being the Mini Grants Chairperson. The committee will be reviewing the grant applications, worth \$10,000 for those who are successful in applying to create a state genetics plan in their state.

Ms. Meki J. Graham, Assistant Professor, co-authored a journal article that will appear in International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship, titled *Debriefing with the OPT Model of Clinical Reasoning during High Fidelity Patient Simulation* Authors: RuthAnne Kuiper, Carol Heinrich, April Matthias, Meki J. Graham, and Lorna Bell-Kotwall.

Ms. Cynthia Herndon, Assistant Professor, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill, May 2007 from the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Program, and passed the WHCNP boards for certification. **Ms. Herndon** also co-authored a journal article that will appear on-line in the Maternal and Child Health Journal.
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/105600/?Content+Status=Accepted> Titled: *Postpartum Depression: Racial Differences and Ethnic Disparities in a Tri-racial and Bi-ethnic Population*. Authors: Wei Guo, Greaver Linda, Marson Steve, Herndon Cynthia and Rogers James, Robeson Health Care Corporation.

Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Assistant Professor, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill, May 2007 from the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Program.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Department Chair, presented *Thinking About Going Back to School* and **Ms. Cherry Beasley**, Assistant Professor, presented information on pending legislation in the NC General Assembly at the District 15 NCNA meeting, Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, NC.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Department Chair, presented *Nursing's Role in Teaching Public Health to All Undergraduate Students*, Saturday, October 22, 2007 at the Fall Semiannual Meeting American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Washington, DC.

CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

Noteworthy Students

The following students made the either the Chancellor's List or Honor's List for the Spring 2007 semester. In order 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. In order 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. Congratulations on this achievement!

Class of 2007 Graduates: **Briana Boyd, Jennifer Henley, Kathryn Humphrey Dries, Jessica Hasty**

Senior Prelicensure students: **Darcy Whitsitt, Kelly Deal, Quawanna Locklear**

Junior Prelicensure students: **Andrea Morgan, Ashley Creech, Melanie Dahl, Danell Fowler, Sara Kerns, Meghan Hawkins, Megan Rusk, Jessica Faulkner Simpson, Stephanie Leviner, Heather Brewer, Erica McGirt, Audrey McIntyre**

Denise Washington, RN-BSN student, was awarded a scholarship by Cha Eta Phi Sorority. The award is based on academics and the recipient must have at least a 3.0 GPA.

Kimberly Locklear, Senior pre-licensure BSN student, participated in the Clinical Health Summer Internship sponsored by UNCP's North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (HCAP). The internship gives students an inside look at the real world of medicine.

Jacklon Beard, Senior pre-licensure BSN student, her husband, Michael, and **Dr. Barbara Synowicz**, Department Chair, attended a Black Tie Gala at the Koury Convention Center in the Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, NC. The dinner was given by The Great 100, Inc., which honors 100 RN's across North Carolina for their commitment to excellence and to the nursing profession. Ms. Beard received the Great 100 scholarship this year. Every year certain Colleges and Universities across the state are chosen to receive a scholarship that is awarded to a student in their nursing program. This was the first year since Dr. Synowicz had been chair of the department that UNCP has been chosen. Ms. Beard was chosen by the nursing faculty to receive this scholarship. Jacklon Beard stated, *"It was a wonderful experience for me to be able to share with my husband and to be recognized for my hard work in nursing school. It was my honor to be awarded The Great 100, Inc. Scholarship and go to Greensboro and represent my University and my Nursing Program."*

Garrett Straughn, Senior pre-licensure BSN student, is the District V Director for NSNA (National Student Nurses Association). He was re-elected to this position on Saturday, October 13th at their Annual Conference in Winston-Salem. There were about 10 students from UNCP who attended the conference. There are 15 nursing schools in District 5 that Mr. Straughn oversees. He states that his role is to work with these schools to establish local student nurses associations. Thus far, he has successfully helped establish two local chapters in District 5 last term. He also visits schools in District 5 to increase membership in the NSNA as well as NCANS. He states that his goal is to get people to attend conferences at the state level and serve on several committees on the state board including community outreach coordinator and on the nomination and election committee. Next month, Mr. Straughn will attend the NSNA's 4-day

mid-year conference in Kansas City, MO to represent NC. Visit this website for further interest and information: www.ncans.org



2007-2008 NCANS Board of Directors

Mr. Straughn also assisted with organizing and tallying the first UNCP Department of Nursing Association of Nursing Students election results. The officers are listed below.

President: Leah Stanley

Vice President Elect: Tiffany Corley

Treasurer: Mary Jill Reeves

Secretary: Lindsey Davis

Senior Executive Board Positions: Yoni Harris and Ann Huggins Bell

Junior Executive Board Positions: Kayse Edwards and Jessica Wigglesworth

Congratulations to the Officers of the Association of Nursing Students!!

Several Junior Nursing students attended an information session and luncheon at SRMC on Saturday, October 13th which included uses of various central supply equipment items. Along with **Ms. Doretha Singley**, Assistant Professor the students were: **April Pruitt, Heather McPhail, Megan Rusk, Kelli Brayboy, Aleasia McDougald, Jeanette Aguilar, Jennifer Herndon, Jessica Simpson, and Lindsay Davis.**

On Saturday, October 13th the following student attended NCANS's Annual conference in Winston-Salem, NC: Senior attendees were: **Garrett Straughn, Leah Stanley, Amanda Titus, April Scott, Ed Guzman, Mary Jill Reeves, Blair Mills, Corinne Swink, and Darcy Whittsit.** Junior attendees included **Heather Brewer, Crystal Hunt, Deidre Chavis, and Tiffany Corley.** This is an organization of nursing students that are elected through membership and advocate for specific issue for nursing students. Please feel free to visit their website for more specific details about this organization. www.ncans.org

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

December 6, 2007 – Pinning, “Introduction to Professional Nursing” Fall 2007 Ceremony

December 6, 2007 – Angel of Hope candle light service, downtown Fayetteville

December 8, 2007 - Graduation

January 15, 2008 – Deadline for submission of applications for pre-licensure Class of 2010

February 16, 2008 – University Wide Open House

April 12, 2008 – University Wide Open House

May 1, 2008 - Pinning, “Introduction to Professional Nursing” Spring 2008 Ceremony

May 3, 2008 – Graduation

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.