FEATURES:
Letter from the Chair
Welcome to the Team
Endowed Professors
Updates from Faculty, Staff, and Students
Every semester, the Department of Nursing releases a new edition of Nursing Notes. It is through this newsletter that I have the opportunity to share the exciting activities and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

In December of this year, we had 14 undergraduate students (pre-licensure and RN-BSN) graduate with their BSN. Of these graduates, 9 of them were pre-licensure BSN graduates who have been busy preparing to take the NCLEX-RN examination. Many of them have secured employment offers in our local area, across the state, and around the country. We wish all of these graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Our nursing faculty are experts in nursing education, dedicated teachers and have years of clinical practice experience to share with students. Together, we are embracing and developing further expertise in cutting-edge teaching strategies, including the use of simulation throughout our curriculum. In this issue, you will meet three new faculty members who have joined the Department of Nursing. Pamela Morgan and Rosemarie Pilarczyk joined the department as assistant professors earlier this year. William Puentes joined the department in August and has been appointed as our Brenda B. Brooks Endowed Professor. I look forward to you learning more about them and seeing them around the campus.

Of course, the Department of Nursing successes, this academic year, were in part due to the dedication of our expert support staff. My special thanks go to Mary Baynes, Administrative Support Associate, James Crouch, RIBN Student Success Advocate and Michael Lowry, RN-BSN Student Success Advocate for all your assistance to faculty, students, and perspective students.

Lastly, I would like to thank our donors, alumni, community partners, and friends for their support of the Department of Nursing. To our alumni, I encourage you to share your story with us and let us know of your personal and professional accomplishments and achievements.

Whether you are an alumni, student, faculty, staff, or friend, you are the key to our success in the Department of Nursing.

I wish each of you a joyous holiday season and health and happiness in 2016. Enjoy this edition of Nursing Notes!

Sincerely,
Barbara B. Synowiez, PhD, MSN, RN
Chair and Professor of Nursing
Welcome to the Team

**Pamela Morgan**

Pamela joined the Department of Nursing in July as an Assistant Professor. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Barton College and a Masters Degree in Nursing Education from Duke University.

She is currently working on an Education Doctorate in Nursing Education at the University of West Georgia.

Pamela has been a registered nurse since 2000 and has 10 years of experience as a nurse educator. She lives in Hope Mills with her husband, John and daughter, Olivia.

**Rosemarie Pilarczyk**

In the Fall, Rosemarie joined the Department of Nursing as an Assistant Professor. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saint John College and a Masters of Science in Nursing from Kent State University.

Prior to joining UNCP, Rosemarie has spent forty-three years in various roles as a nurse. She has taught nursing at multiple universities and taught Health Science courses in the Scotland County School System.

Rosemarie has three children and two grandsons. She lives in Laurinburg with her husband, Ed.

**Locklear Named RN-BSN Coordinator**

In December, Kathy Locklear was named as the new RN-BSN Coordinator.

Kathy earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Robeson Community College in 1989, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNCP in 1999, a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix in 2005, and a Post Masters Certificate in Nursing Education from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2009.

Kathy has worked as a staff nurse at Southeastern Health for 15 years, a Senior Nursing Instructor at Robeson Community College for 10.5 years, and worked in the Department of Nursing at UNCP in 2008.

Kathy resides in Lumberton and is married to her husband, Ira. They have one daughter, Katy, and son-in-law, Brandon. She is active in her community and her church choir. She enjoys traveling, singing, outdoors, and being with family.
Cherry Maynor Beasley has been selected for the Anne R. Belk Endowed Professor in Nursing at UNCP. The Belk Endowed Professorship was named in honor of Anne R. Belk who grew up in Lumberton and passed away on August 2, 2008. She was the daughter of Patricia Reynolds Sharpe and step-daughter of Albert M. Sharpe.

The Professorship requires participation in professional activities that promote rural and minority health as well as departmental activities including teaching, scholarship and service.

Dr. Beasley earned her BSN in 1973 from the University of Michigan, a MS in Nursing and Public Health Nursing from UNC – Chapel Hill, a post-master’s FNP from the University of South Carolina, and her PhD in 2009 from East Carolina University.

Dr. Beasley is the first Lumbee to have earned a baccalaureate, masters and doctor of philosophy all in nursing. A generation of nursing students have benefited from her dedication to and excellence in nursing education.

Dr. Beasley is a member and leader in numerous nursing organizations including the American Nurses Association, the North Carolina Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, the National League for Nursing, and Delta Omega. She is the past chair of the North Carolina Center for Nursing. Her areas of expertise are cultural roles in health care decision making, rural health, diabetes, nursing workforce issues, and women’s health.

Dr. Beasley has successfully written and administered grants and is the author of several articles. She, along colleagues Mary Ann Jacobs and Ulrike Wiethaus, have edited a book to be published in January 2015 titled, "American Indian Women of Proud Nations: Essays on History, Language, and Education".

Most recently, Dr. Beasley has been selected as the first Secretary of Health for the Lumbee Tribe.
William J. Puentes has been selected for the Brenda B. Brooks Endowed Professorship at UNCP. The Brooks Endowed Professorship was named in honor of the late wife of Healtherkeeperz founder and Chairman Howard Brooks.

Dr. Puentes comes to the Department of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke from Emory University’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing where he was a Clinical Professor and served as the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education. He has 30 years of experience as a nurse in clinical and academic settings with a specialization in geropsychiatric nursing. His research focuses on the development and testing of psychosocial self-management strategies for individuals diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Mild to Moderate Alzheimer's disease.

Puentes was a core faculty member of the Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium and a member of the Geropsychiatric Nursing Collaborative. He was also the editor of the 2010 edition of Older Adults: Recommended Baccalaureate Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for Geriatric Nursing Care. He is a current member of the American Nurses Association and the American Academy of Nursing.

He has been the Principal Investigator on NIH and foundation funded grants totaling over $1,200,000.00. His research is published in journals such as The Gerontologist, the Journal of Gerontological Nursing, Nursing Outlook and Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and he has presented at the national and international level in the area of Geropsychiatric Nursing.

Puentes completed his MSN at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and PhD at Widener University School of Nursing. He is a former John A. Hartford Foundation/American Academy of Nursing Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Postdoctoral Claire Fagin Fellow and NYU College of Nursing Hartford Institute Summer Scholar. He was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2011.
Congratulations Graduates!

In December, the Department of Nursing had 14 undergraduate students and two MSN students graduate. We wish these graduates the best of luck and we look forward to seeing what their future holds!

**Prelicensure BSN**
Miriah Catherine Adams
Jessica T. Broadwell
Nicole M. Griffith
Melissa D. King
Faith J. Locklear
Samantha L. Roberts
Napatwee Somkanay
Allison K. Taylor
Mary Jo Watterson

**RN - BSN**
Tammy Bradley
Tiffany Fowler
Medina James
Sarah Lockey
Lisa Stein

**MSN**
Heather Nicole Norton
Cheryl Speight

Above: The graduating Prelicensure BSN class of December 2015
Right Top: MSN Graduates Heather Norton and Cheryl Speight
Right Bottom: Senior students Marcus Oxendine and Rhaven Cooper assisted with the Department of Nursing's Pinning Ceremony
Rebecca Cash graduated with the first MSN cohort from UNC-Pembroke in May 2015. She moved to Vinton, VA at the end of the summer.

She started working at the Salem Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Virginia as the first implemented Clinical Nurse Leader, working on a Medical/Surgical/Tele unit.

She passed the Clinical Nurse Leader certification in December. She has started implementing projects on the unit to improve patient outcomes and staff satisfaction.

She is enjoying the new job and will be getting married in April 2016.

During finals week, students in the DNL³C Program attended a study break program.

In November, students collected 193 cans of food for the Robeson County Church and Community Center.
Dr. Jennifer Johnson and Mrs. Melonie Moody have been accepted to present a poster at the Drexel EDU SIM 2016 Conference in Clearwater, Florida. The conference is in March and the title of their poster is: *Utilizing Electronic Health Records and Simulation to Enhance Understanding of Nursing Practice and Clinical Decision Making Skills*.

Dr. Jennifer Johnson and Mrs. Melonie Moody have been accepted to speak at the 7th Annual 'You Brought the Manikin, Now What? Best Practices in Simulation Education Conference'. The conference is in Greensboro on March 3rd and 4th. The title of their oral presentation is: *Utilization of Electronic Documentation in Health Assessment Skills Lab*.

Mrs. Misty Stone has been accepted into a Doctoral Nursing Program at UNC-Greensboro. She will begin her studies in August 2016.

Mrs. Melonie Moody, Mr. James Crouch, and four nursing students volunteered at the District HOSA Conference in November. This conference brings local high school students together to participate in allied health competitive events.

Dr. Cherry Beasley and Mr. Michael Lowry represented the Department of Nursing at the 108th Annual North Carolina Nurses Association Convention in Charlotte.
The Nursing 3040 Nutrition class had a poster presentation fair on November 30th in the lobby of the Health Sciences Building.

Students from the North China Institute of Science and Technology toured the Clinical Learning Center.

Congressman Richard Hudson visited UNCP and toured the campus.

St. Pauls High School students visited the UNCP campus and had a special nursing presentation and tour of the building. Thanks to Melissa Gainey and James Crouch for arranging this event!

Senior nursing students in community health nursing assisted in health screenings in October at Rockfish Church in Raeford.

Above: Director of the Clinical Learning Center, Melonie Moody, and Chair, Dr. Barbara Synowiez, engage in discussion with Chancellor Cummings, Congressman Hudson, and BOT member Jarette Sampson.

Above: Melonie Moody poses with students from the North China Institute of Science and Technology.

Above and Below: Students in the nutrition course present their posters.
In December, faculty and staff enjoyed a luncheon in Pinehurst.

From left to right: Michael Lowry, John Toth, Pamela Morgan, Debbie Locklear, Jennifer Twaddell, Joyce Beard, Cherry Beasley, Joyce Stanley, Kathy Locklear, Misty Stone, James Crouch, Barbara Synowiez, William Puentes, Mary Baynes, and Melonie Moody

The vision of the Department of Nursing is to achieve regional distinction as a leader of excellence in our nursing educational programs and in scholarship, service, and community engagement. The faculty would like to thank our students, alumni, community partners, donors, and friends for helping us achieve our vision. We are most appreciative.