



Nursing *Notes*

HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

FEATURES:
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Graduation Celebration
Articulation Agreement

Letter from the Chair

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 May of this year, we had 46 undergraduate students (pre-licensure and RN-BSN) graduate with their BSN. Of these graduates, 39 of them were pre-licensure BSN graduates who have been busy preparing for and taking the NCLEX-RN examination and receiving their license to practice as a registered nurse. 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.

I am also pleased to announce that we graduated four students through our Masters of Science in Nursing program. These students started their journey in 2013 and they are our first cohort to graduate from the program. We are very excited to see where they go from here.

In our last issue, it was mentioned that both our undergraduate and graduate programs were being reviewed for accreditation. This month, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) notified the University that the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program earned accreditation for an additional 10 years and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for five years. Both programs have been accredited for the maximum time period allowed! I hope you will join me in celebrating this achievement as we continue striving to make UNCP an institution of choice.

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 two new faculty members who have joined the Department of Nursing. Melonie Moody, MSN, RN, Director of the Clinical Learning Center and Kathy Locklear, MSN, RN, Clinical Assistant 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.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Synowicz, PhD, MSN, RN
Chair and Professor of Nursing



Welcome to the Team!

Here is your chance to meet the newest members of the Department of Nursing!

Michael Lowry

In January, Michael Lowry joined the Department of Nursing as the Student Success Advocate for the RN-BSN Program. Michael earned his Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sport Science in 2009 from UNCP. In 2013, Michael earned his Master of Arts in Physical Education from UNCP.

Before joining the Department of Nursing, Michael worked with UNCP's Office of The Registrar for five years. Michael is a sports enthusiast and he resides with his wife, Brandi, in the Prospect community.



Melonie Moody

In May, Melonie joined the Department of Nursing as the Director of the Clinical Learning Center. Melonie earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNCP in 2010. In 2015, she earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education from UNCP.

Melonie has worked as a Registered Nurse for the past 5 years and is excited to begin this new journey with simulation.

Melonie is married and resides with her husband, three year old son, and 15 year old step-daughter in Laurinburg.



Kathy Locklear

In July, Kathy Locklear joined the Department of Nursing as an Assistant Clinical Professor. Ms. Locklear earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Robeson Community College in 1989, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNCP in 1999 where she was also awarded the Dorothy Orem Nursing Award, a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix in 2005, and a Post Master's Certificate in Nursing Education from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2009.

Ms. Locklear 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.

Ms. Locklear 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.



Prelicensure BSN Graduates:

Yarelin Almazan
Armando Alvarez
Bobbie Andrews
Marquilla Avila-Galeana
Melissa Ayscue
Jennie Beldon
Ashleigh Bell
Lindsey Bullock
Kassidy Burr
Deanna Coleman
Racheal Collins
Larra Creech
Sophia Daniels
Lorin DeBarge
Michael DeMilita
Jonathan Dent
Janet Dove
Elena Eller
Eulanda Fogg
Veronica Graham
Heather Grooms
Amanda Hatcher
Casey Horne
Keri Hughes
Gerren Hunt
Joy Kenani
Kasey Leggett
Casey Locklear
Courtney Mayers
Davena Locklear McLemore
Shannon Merwin
Tessa Nidoy
Tiffany Oxendine
Denis Rono
Heather Scott
Katelyn Shelley
Sarah Smith
Erin Stevens
Kayla Watts
Heejin Yun

Congratulations Graduates!



RN-BSN Graduates:

Mitchell Caulder
Kayla Fowler
Jennifer Jones
Maranda Hammonds
Catherine Lott
Kristin Lowery
Jada Rozier

In May, the Department of Nursing had 46 undergraduate students and four MSN students graduate.

We wish these graduates the best of luck and we look forward to seeing what their future holds!

MSN Graduates:

Rebecca Jean Cash
Kelly Hickman-Robeson
Melonie R. Moody
Chantal Stanfield

Program Signed

Building on the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) already in place between the University of North Carolina system and NC Community Colleges, the UNC Board of Governors and State Board of Community Colleges have approved a supplemental articulation agreement that will provide a seamless education pathway for students pursuing nursing.

This agreement creates uniform requirements for students moving between North Carolina's two public higher education systems and will help students avoid course duplication, shorten the time to degree completion, and eliminate the need for multiple agreements between institutions. The new Uniform Articulation Agreement between Associate Degree Nursing Programs and the RN to Bachelor of Science Nursing Programs promotes a more seamless, concise pathway for moving from community colleges to public universities, while also responding to the health care industry's increasing

demand that nurses pursue BSN degrees.

A report published in 2010 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Institute of Medicine recommended increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020 to meet the evolving demands of the health care industry.

"These articulation agreements are the work of dedicated faculty, staff and partner organizations who sought ways to expand educational pathway opportunities for our state's future nurses and engineers," said NC Community College System President, Dr. Scott Ralls. "Through these agreements, our institutions are ensuring that students have opportunities not only to transfer to a public university, but to pursue specialized degrees in the most efficient and cost effective way possible."

"One out of every four UNC students is a transfer student, and our faculties are committed to creating more seamless pathways for

students who hope to pursue specialized degrees in high-demand fields such as nursing..." said UNC President Thomas W. Ross. "More than 24,000 students who began their studies at a NC community college are now undergraduates on a UNC campus. By working together, our two systems can continue to grow that number and better meet North Carolina's future workforce needs."

The articulation agreement goes into effect for the fall 2015 semester.

The articulation agreement in its entirety may be viewed at:

http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sites/default/files/state-board/program/prog_05_art._agree_rn-bsn_final_1-8.pdf

This article was adapted from a joint news release from the NC Community College System and University of North Carolina system.

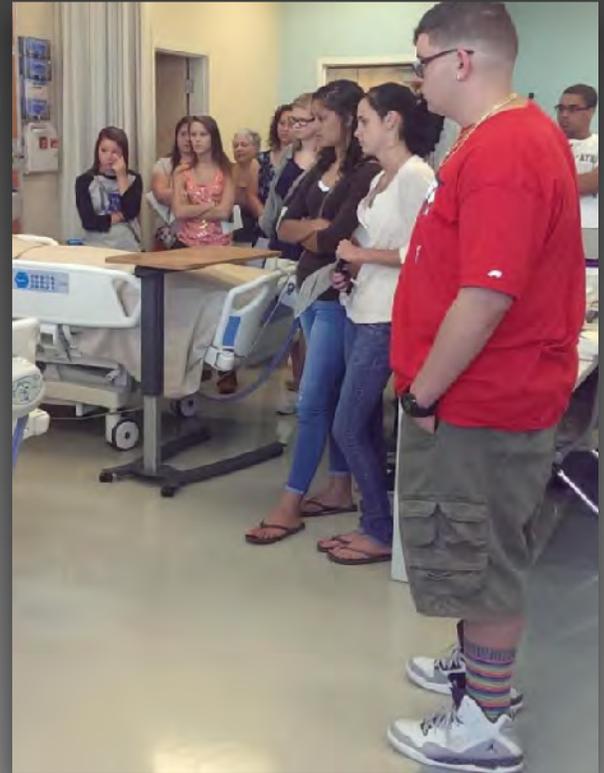
Students Tour the Health Sciences Building

In April, fifty students from Scotland High School attended a field trip to UNCP. Dr. Jennifer Johnson and Mr. James Crouch coordinated the event along with Ms. Rosemarie Pilarczyk with Scotland High School and Ms. Melissa Gainey with UNCP Admissions.

Students attended a short information session to learn about UNCP admissions, the BSN Program, and the RIBN Program. Following the session, students took a tour of the simulation labs and were able to interact with the high fidelity patient simulators. Students then took a tour of UNCP's campus and the day ended with the students enjoying lunch at the cafeteria.

In June, AHEC sponsored a health camp on the UNCP campus for local high school students. The Department of Nursing teamed up with AHEC's Ms. Tonya Burney, Director of Health Careers & Workforce Diversity, to provide a fun-filled day at the department.

Ms. Melonie Moody had setup an activity in the simulation labs for the students to participate in. Students were then given a tour of the lab followed by a tour of the campus. Students ended the day with a teamwork activity coordinated by Mr. James Crouch called The Marshmallow Challenge.



Students from Scotland High School tour the simulation labs



Students participating in The Marshmallow Challenge

In May, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Jennifer Twaddell also received the Faculty Service Award for ten years of service.

In May, Joyce Stanley was awarded the Faculty Spirit of Nursing Award from the BSN graduating class. Joyce Stanley also received the Faculty Service Award for ten years of service.

Dr. Cherry Beasley, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, and graduate student Anna Bryan presented a poster at the state legislature in May.

Dr. Tiffany Tyson participated as a mentor for the Tarheel Challenge Academy. She is in the final stages of completing a workbook Empowerment Series for teens and young adults related to current issues such as bullying, relationship violence, drug abuse, and growing up.

In February, Dr. Dena Evans completed TeamSTEPPS training. She also presented a lecture on incivility in healthcare at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez and Dr. Jennifer Johnson received an Excellence in Teaching Award for the 2014-2015 academic year. This award was presented by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jennifer Johnson attended a conference on April 20th, 2015 titled "Excellence in Nursing Leadership" sponsored by the Continuing Education Department at UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing.



Ms. Joyce Stanley accepts the Faculty Spirit of Nursing Award from Dr. Barbara Synowiez



Dr. Cherry Beasley, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, and graduate student Anna Bryan at the state legislature

Dr. Tiffany Tyson coordinated four public service announcement commercials with a focus on bullying, relationship violence, drug abuse, and growing up. Special thanks to Professor Dollard in the Mass Communication for his support and film student Aaron Baldwin for filming and editing the PSA series.

Dr. Tiffany Tyson was interviewed on UNCP's Carolina News Today regarding the empowerment series and PSA commercials. The PSA commercials will air on Time Warner Cable as well as on local radio, health department, and high school broadcasts.

Special thanks goes out to:

- Nursing Student: Latoria Davis
- DNL³C students: Andrea Hollis, Diandra Ingram, and Sadeja Dove
- Psychology major: D'Angelio Scott
- Social Work Major: Megan Reid
- Chemistry Major and Music Theatre minor: Dorianna Curry
- Dance members from UNCP: Antwon Agurs, Chrisdarrius Clark, Darian Calhoun, and Anthony Jones.

In addition, special thanks to DNL³C nursing faculty advisors Joyce Beard and Debbie Locklear for assisting with rehearsal and auditions.

In fall 2013, the Department of Nursing accepted its first cohort of students into the Masters of Science in Nursing Program. This program has three specialty areas: Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Leader, and Rural Case Manager.

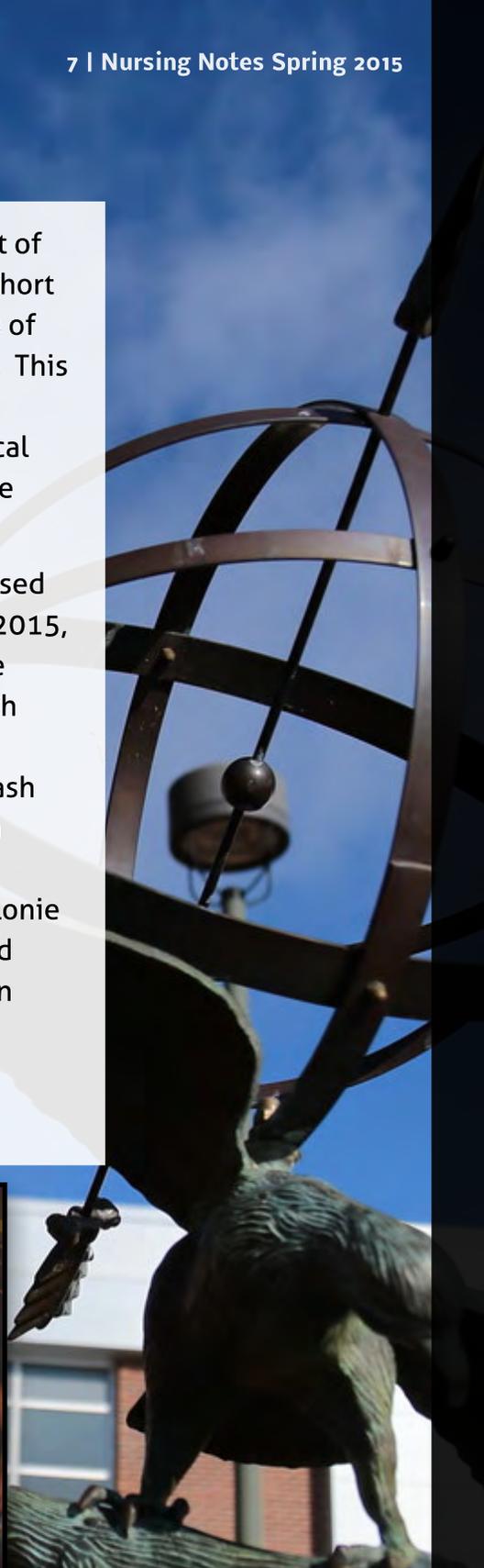
After two years, we are pleased to announce that in May of 2015, the first four students of the MSN Program graduated with their Masters of Science in Nursing degree. Rebecca Cash and Kelly Hickman-Robeson graduated with the Clinical Nurse Leader specialty. Melonie Moody and Chantal Stanfield graduated with a specialty in nursing education.

Congratulations graduates!



Above: Dr. Tyson and guests at the PSA Premiere

Right: Graduating MSN Students: Melonie Moody, Rebecca Cash, Kelly Hickman-Robeson, and Chantal Stanfield



UNC Pembroke's nursing programs continue to prosper. In June, the university was notified by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) that the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program earned accreditation for an additional 10 years and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for five years.

"This is really great news for us," said Dr. Barbara Synowiez, chair of the Department of Nursing. "CCNE is the gold standard of national accrediting, and we earned the maximum extension of our accreditation for both programs, and there were no compliance concerns."

CCNE's board, which met in late April, determined that the program met all four accreditation standards. After a lengthy self-study and a three-day, on-site visit from a CCNE team, the board determined that there are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements.

The four-year BSN program began in 2005, and the MSN program graduated its first students this past May. UNCP's BSN graduates have a 94 percent passing rate over the last three years on the nursing examination (NCLEX-RN), which easily exceeds CCNE and UNC standards.

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter greeted the news with delight and noted that nursing is a continuing success story at UNCP.

"I can't say I'm surprised,

Nursing at UNCP earns highest marks on reaccreditation

because I've known for years that we offered a superior nursing program," Dr. Carter said. "But nevertheless I am thrilled and very, very proud of the program that Dr. Synowiez has built with her faculty."

UNCP's nursing program has been a story of growth in enrollment and excellence in academic achievement. For two consecutive years, UNCP could boast it was the state's only public university with a perfect passing rate for BSN.

Enrollment continues to grow and the program continues to attract higher quality students. In two commencements last year, UNCP graduated 63 nurses with BSN degrees.

The first four nurses graduated from the new MSN program in May. The program has three specializations – nurse educator, clinical nurse leader and rural care management. One of the May grads will join UNCP's nursing faculty and one will join the faculty of Sandhills Community College.

Community support is also rising to the challenge of improving health care in the region. Private donors have established three endowed professorships in UNCP nursing. The first two will be dedicated next fall.

The UNCP nursing success story has been accomplished with many partners, Dr. Synowiez notes. The four-year BSN program was housed on Southeastern Health's Lumberton campus for its first seven years.

"The list of our partners who deserve out thanks is quite lengthy," she said. "Accreditation was a yearlong process that concluded with a three-day visit of the CCNE team. They looked at everything and interviewed faculty, administrators, students and community partners."

"It was thorough and exhausting and we're very excited for the future of professional nursing at UNCP and the region we serve," Dr. Synowiez said.

This article was written by Scott Bigelow with University Communications & Marketing.

The Nursing 3500 class attended the UNC Jaycee Burn Center in April. Dr. Ernest Grant, Outreach Director, provided the tour of the facilities.

Graduate Student Awards:

Anna Bryan won a Judge's Award on her work with *Interdisciplinary Practice: UCare Delivery Model*.

Rebecca Cash and Kelly Hickman received a Judge's Award Honorable Mention for their work on *Overcoming Barriers to Improve Employee Satisfaction and Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers*.

Undergraduate Student Awards:

Kasey Legget was awarded the Scotland Healthcare System Nursing Service Award.

Jennie Beldon was awarded the Associate of Nursing Students Leadership Award.

Melissa Ayscue (Prelicensure BSN) and Jennifer Jones (RN-BSN) received the Nursing Practice Award.

Sarah Smith received the Nursing Excellence Award.



Students at the UNC Jaycee Burn Center



MSN students presenting at the Graduate Research Symposium



Jennie Beldon, recipient of the ANS Leadership Award



Above: In May, as part of the department's internal program evaluation and planning workshop, all faculty and staff participated in a cultural enrichment activity. A tour of local Lumbee historical landmarks was provided by Mary Ann Jacobs, Chair, Department of American Indian Studies; Linda Oxendine, Professor Emeritus, Department of American Indian Studies; and Lawrence Locklear, Program Coordinator for the Southeast American Indian Studies Program.



From Left to Right: Mr. John Toth, Ms. Astrid Oviedo, Dr. Katherine Kemplin, Dr. Tiffany Tyson, Dr. Jennifer Jones-Locklear, Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, Ms. Debbie Locklear, and Ms. Joyce Stanley.
Not pictured: Dr. Cherry Beasley, Dr. Dena Evans, Ms. Joyce Beard, and Ms. Misty Stone.

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.

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www.uncp.edu/nursing
nursing@uncp.edu