



NURSING NOTES

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Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2012 issue of "Nursing Notes", the E-Newsletter for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Department of Nursing. To learn more about the nursing program, please visit our website at www.uncp.edu/nursing.



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January 7, 2013	Spring Courses Begin
February 9, 2013	Open House Information Fair
March 4, 2013	Second Eight-Week Courses Begin
March 18-22, 2013	Advising Week
April 13, 2013	Open House Information Fair
April 29 – May 3, 2013	Final Exam Week
May 2, 2013	Pinning Ceremony
May 3, 2013 7:00 PM	School of Graduate Studies Commencement
May 4, 2013 9:00 AM	Undergraduate Spring Commencement

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Message from the Chair



Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Holiday season. As 2012 draws to a close, all of us in the Department of Nursing have a great deal to rejoice over and to be thankful for.

We moved into the Health Sciences Building in May 2012 and are excited about the learning enhancements that the new building has brought to both faculty and students. This 87,000 square foot building is home to the Department of Nursing, Department of Social Work, and biology laboratories. For students in the Department of Nursing, this facility includes a 14,500 GSF state-of-the art Clinical Learning Center (CLC).

It is with great pleasure to report that all of our May 2012 pre-licensure BSN nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) on their first attempt. The May 2012 graduates join the May 2011 graduates with a 100% pass rate. The Department of Nursing's first-time pass rates have increased every year since graduating its first pre-licensure BSN class in 2007.

The Department opened the *Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community* (DNL³C) for new freshmen pre-nursing majors in August 2012. At the present time there are 117 freshmen participating in the community.

Our RN-BSN Bridge Program partnerships continue to grow. In 2012, the Department of Nursing signed articulation agreements with the following community colleges: Robeson Community College, Sandhills Community College, Richmond Community College, Southeastern Community College, and Brunswick Community College. The agreements will help ease the transition for graduates of the community college's registered nursing (RN) program into UNCP's Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) program. Together we are doing our part to help meet the national goal of 80% of all nurses holding a minimum of a BSN by 2020.

Our first cohort of RN-BSN students at Scotland Health Care System in Laurinburg graduated in December. During the fall our first cohort of RN-BSN students at FirstHealth of the Carolinas in Pinehurst began classes.

Along with our nursing educational partners from Robeson, Sandhills, Richmond, and Southeastern Community Colleges, the Department of Nursing has established the SouthCentral RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) Collaborative. The SouthCentral RIBN Collaborative is one of six collaborative projects across the state of North Carolina. The RIBN Collaborative is a statewide educational partnership between community colleges and universities to dually enroll students in a seamless four-year nursing curriculum as another pathway to meet the goal of significantly increasing the proportion of BSN-prepared nurses in North Carolina by 2020. Funding for the statewide project is being supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

All of the required documents for a MSN of Nursing degree program were submitted to UNC General Administration during 2012. At this time the program proposal is going through the formal UNC General Administration approval process. We are hoping to receive approval of the program early in 2013. If approved, we anticipate admitting students and offering the first classes in fall 2013.

The Department of Nursing has had a year of many successes and much promise for the future. I wish you all the best during the New Year and hope you will join in the excitement as the Department of Nursing strives for even greater accomplishments in 2013.

Barbara Synowicz

Barbara B. Synowicz, PhD, MSN, RN

Chair and Professor

Health Sciences Building Ribbon Cutting



After six years of planning and hard work, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke officially cut the ribbon to its new Health Sciences Building, home to the Department of Nursing, Social Work and the biology labs. This technology-laden facility will promote the department of nursing's ability to offer nursing students the most current, evidence-based education while utilizing cutting edge technology to bring the teaching-learning experience "alive" in a life-like, yet SAFE, environment.

One of the most notable features of this building is the 14,500 square foot Clinical Learning Center (CLC), which simulates a hospital setting, as well as a home setting, and is fully equipped for students to practice clinical nursing skills at all levels of nursing practice. It consists of cutting-edge technology in simulation education that is housed within seven individual laboratories: Basic Care, Advanced Care, Pediatric, Maternal/Newborn, Psych/Mental Health, Health Assessment, and the Brenda A. Brooks Home Simulation Apartment. Each simulation lab is thoroughly equipped to provide simulated learning experiences related to healthcare situations that may occur with diverse clients of various cultures across the lifespan. Multiple observation rooms facilitate the video capturing for streaming and recording of simulation activities. The CLC also has a seminar room, housing a flat screen television allowing students to view a variety of educational media, as well as a 50-seat classroom. Ms. Martha Hepler, MSN, RN joined us as Director of the Clinical Learning Center in July 2012. To read the University Newswire's article discussing the Ribbon Cutting ceremony, click http://www.uncp.edu/news/2012/health_sciences_ribbon_cutting.htm.



Clinical Learning Center Hallway

New Beginnings

The Department of Nursing is excited and motivated by the endless possibilities that the new Health Sciences Building offers in terms of nursing education. Below are just a few images demonstrating the resources that are available to assist faculty in providing the highest quality of education to our future nurses.



Left: The Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) offers services such as tutoring, test-taking skills and time management (to name a few) in order to maximize a student's success in the nursing program.

Right: A 50-seat computer lab is available to all students and can also be reserved to offer computerized testing, such as the ATI exams utilized by the Department of Nursing to assess student competencies in specific learning areas.



The Health Assessment Lab features 8 exam tables, just as you would see in a physician's office of healthcare clinic. Each station is fully equipped with wall-mounted otoscopes and ophthalmoscopes as well as sphygmomanometers for blood pressure assessments. Students utilize this lab during their Health Assessment course as well as simulated activities involving a "clinic" scenario. This lab has two ceiling-mounted cameras for recording and playback learning experiences.

The **Brenda A. Brookes Home Simulation Apartment** provides students the opportunity to simulate home visits. The apartment is equipped with a fully functioning kitchen with refrigerator, stove and dishwasher as well as a washing machine and dryer. The bathroom is ADA compliant.

This lab will be utilized to simulate home visits for those suffering from chronic illnesses as well as for healthy visits, such as is common with newborn and postpartum care.



New Members of the UNCP Nursing Team

The Department of Nursing welcomed 5 new faculty members during fall 2012:

Dr. Theresa Campbell: Earned BSN from UNC Greensboro and MSN/FNP from UNC Charlotte. Obtained a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Southern Alabama. Dr. Campbell will be teaching Adult Health Nursing, Health Assessment, Nursing Research, Family Nursing and Transcultural Nursing.

Ms. Antonia Clark: Earned BSN from UNC Greensboro and MSN from Duke University. Ms. Clark will be teaching Adult Health Nursing, Nursing Informatics and Focused Care.

Ms. Jennifer Jones-Locklear: Earned ADN from Robeson Community College, BSN from UNC Pembroke and MSN from Phoenix University. Ms. Locklear will be teaching Adult Health Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Geriatric Nursing and Focused Care.

Ms. Crystal Moore: Earned ADN from Fayetteville Technical Community College, BSN from UNC Pembroke and MSN-FNP/WHCNP from UNC Chapel Hill. Ms. Moore will be teaching Community Health Nursing, Family Nursing II and Focused Care.

Ms. Aprel Ventura: Earned ADN from Robeson Community College, BSN from UNC Pembroke and MSN from Duke University. Ms. Ventura will be teaching Adult Health Nursing, Nutrition and Focused Care.

In addition, we welcomed **Ms. Mary Baynes** as our full-time administrative support associate.

In spring 2013 we will welcome 2 additional faculty members, **Ms. Leslie Oxendine** and **Dr. Tiffany Tyson**.

The Department of Nursing would like to welcome all of our new faculty and staff members and look forward to working with each of them in 2013 and the years to come.



The Department of Nursing would like to say farewell to Ms. Michelle McEwen, MSN, FNP, RNC, CLNC, who will be leaving UNCP at the end of the Fall 2012 semester to pursue a faculty position at UNC Wilmington. Ms. McEwen specializes in obstetrical nursing and has served as coordinator for our Family Nursing I course. She also provided instruction in our Health Assessment courses over the past several years. Thank you for your service, Ms. McEwen and best wishes in your future endeavors.

DNL3C Opens Doors to Freshman Pre-Nursing Majors



Dr. Dena Evans welcomes new students to a Welcome Breakfast in August 2012. Students who attended this breakfast earned points that could assist in their guaranteed admission into the BSN program at UNCP.

The Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community (DNL3C) opened its doors to freshman pre-nursing majors in August 2012. Participating in the community creates a unique opportunity for nursing majors to live, network, and study together in an engaging and supportive academic and social environment while possibly earning guaranteed admission into the pre-licensure BSN program.

New members of the DNL3C were welcomed by nursing faculty and staff at a welcome breakfast outside of the Clinical Learning Center, located on the second floor of the Health Sciences Building. Students were provided an opportunity to meet nursing faculty and receive a tour of the CLC, with special welcomes provided by the department's high-fidelity simulators, Mike and Bobby.

Students also earned points this semester by attending sessions pertaining to the Association of Nursing Students (ANS), stress management and academic advisement for Spring 2013.

There are currently 117 participants living in the community and 40 additional commuter students participating in the events.

100% First-Time Pass Rate Two Years in a Row

It is with great pleasure to report that all of our May 2012 pre-licensure BSN nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) on their first attempt. The May 2012 graduates join the May 2011 graduates with a 100% pass rate. The Department of Nursing's first-time pass rates have increased every year since graduating its first pre-licensure BSN class in 2007.

"We are really proud of this achievement because it speaks to the high quality of instruction and the high quality of our graduates," said Dr. Barbara Synowiez, chair of the Department of Nursing. "The success of our students is making us one of the premier nursing programs in North Carolina."

UNCP started a RN to BSN program in the mid-1990s and that program continues. The four-year BSN program began in 2005 at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton.

To read the full article on the University Newswire, click http://www.uncp.edu/news/2012/nursing_perfection.htm.

Nine Nurses Earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)



The RN-BSN completion option is designed for registered nurses who wish to earn the baccalaureate nursing degree. Building on competencies attained by the registered nurse, the program extends the student's knowledge, skills, attitudes, and scope of practice for expanded career opportunities, enhances personal and professional satisfaction, and develops a foundation for further study in graduate nursing education.

After successfully completing all requirements of the UNCP RN-BSN program, eight nurses were awarded their UNCP nursing pin on December 6, 2012. Dr. Cherry Beasley, coordinator for the RN-BSN program, called each graduate's name and they were pinned by Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Chair of the Department of Nursing. Red roses were donated by Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) and presented to each graduate by Pam Jackson.

Loss of Student, Dianne Elizabeth Castellanos

It is with great sadness that we report that one of our junior nursing students, Dianne Elizabeth Castellanos, died on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, following a tragic accident. The department of nursing extends its condolences to the family and friends she leaves behind.

A funeral mass was held at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pinehurst with the Rev. Edward J. Burch officiating. Rite of committal will be held at a later date in Cheatham Hill Memorial Park, Marietta, GA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Nicholas A. Fidandis Scholarship Fund at BB&T Bank in Seven Lakes. Online condolences may be made at www.bolesfuneralhome.com. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

In the Spotlight

The Clinical Learning Center (CLC) has gained the attention of many in the community and surrounding areas. Prospective students, their families and large groups have received individualized tours of the facility and are encouraged by the resources available to faculty and students. An excess of one hundred high school students and advisors from the NC Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization visited UNCP in October and interacted with Mike and Bobby, our high-fidelity simulators, as well as other models and equipment utilized in the simulation labs by nursing students. In November, the CLC received visits from the Chinese Delegation and newly elected NC senator (District 41), Jeff Tarte.

In addition, UNCP was among the more than 20 stops the Research Triangle Foundation (RTF) made across the state as part of its Research Triangle Park (RTP) "Pathways to Opportunity" bus tour. The purpose of this tour was for RTF officials to listen and collect ideas regarding how the research park can reconnect with communities across the state and work collaboratively to address concerns in a difficult economy.



Martha Hepler provides a demonstration of the equipment utilized in the lab control rooms during simulated learning experiences.



Dr. Barbara Synowiez providing a demonstration of Bobby, one of our high-fidelity simulators, who is wireless and is controlled by a computer in the control room.

The Department of nursing was featured in local and state media during the Fall 2012 semester. First, the CLC was featured on the front page of the Fayetteville Observer. With an emphasis on technology and simulation, junior nursing student, Charles Kurtz, added to the story by stating, "Basically, the way the labs are set up, it's as close to the real thing as you can get without having human patients sitting in the room. It gives you a chance to deal with and practice your skills in a more relaxed mode." The article can be accessed online at <http://fayobserver.com/articles/2012/08/26/1197310>.

Secondly, the CLC was a leading story on a segment of NC NOW, a series that runs weeknights on UNC-TV. Host, Kelly McCullen, visited the site and interviewed staff and several students regarding the technology and use of simulation in nursing education. Students featured in the video segment included seniors Anthony Neal and Jennie Zary as well as juniors James Nicholson, Brooke Byrd, Cinthya Bowmaker-Kareem and Audrianna Vik. The video can be accessed on YouTube as well as the UNCP nursing website or by clicking <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Z1ycJtxPw>.

Pictured left to right: Anthony Neal, James Nicholson, Kelly McCullen and UNC-TV cameraman.



With new technology, comes a strong need for new learning. High-tech equipment is of no use unless the facilitators know how to use it, which is exactly why nursing faculty have committed themselves to lifelong learning so that they are competent and able to incorporate these innovative teaching strategies into the learning environments for current and future students. Whether it be learning how to document in the electronic documentation system, pulling medications from the MedDispense system, managing the audio-visual recording system or actually controlling biological responses in our high-fidelity simulators, the faculty are committed to moving forward so that students receive the most life-like experiences possible in an environment that fosters critical thinking and decision making, yet is safe and non-threatening.



Top left: New faculty members Antonia Clark, Jennifer Jones-Locklear and Theresa Campbell performing CPR on Bobby during our SimMan 3G training workshop in September 2012.

Top right: Faculty member, Joyce Beard, comforts Mike after a traumatic procedure during our PediaSim training workshop in August 2012.

Bottom left: Bobby is relieved that the UNCP faculty team responded so quickly.

Scholarship

RESEARCH

- ❑ Dr. Cherry Beasley working with a team of UNCP and UNC-CH faculty - "*Center for Diabetes Translation Research to Reduce Disparities (CDTR) Pilot and Feasibility Program*"
- ❑ Dr. Dena Evans and Dr. Barbara Synowiez - "*Ability of the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) to Predict Student Success in Nursing School*"
- ❑ Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Dr. Cherry Beasley, and Dr. Dena Evans - "*Student Perceptions Related to Community Engagement in Nursing*"
- ❑ Jennifer Twaddell - Dissertation Defense in January 2013, "*Information Needs of Parents of Infants with Life-threatening Conditions*"

GRANTS

- ❑ *Campus Partnership for Health* - Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Dr. Cherry Beasley, and Dr. Dena Evans
- ❑ *Clinical Site Development SRAHEC Grant* - Michelle McEwen, Dr. Dena Evans

GRANTS cont...

- ❑ *Rural Educational Mobility Project SRAHEC Grant* - Dr. Cherry Beasley and Al West (Southeastern Community College) (\$40,000 awarded)
- ❑ *North Carolina RIBN Project* - Polly Johnson (President and CEO - Foundation for Nursing Excellence), Southeastern NC Partners (Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Dr. Cherry Beasley, Eva Meekins, Cheryl McNeill), and other select schools of nursing in NC

PRESENTATIONS

- ❑ Dr. Cherry Beasley delivered a presentation entitled "Education, Scholarship and Service: Keys to a UNCP RTPF Collaboration" to the Research Triangle Foundation at UNCP in November 2012
- ❑ Dr. Dena Evans and Dr. Barbara Synowiez presented a poster presentation entitled: "Journey to NCLEX-RN Success" at the 39th Annual National Educator Conference at Villanova University in Villanova, PA in October 2012.

PRESENTATIONS cont...

- ❑ Dr. Thelma Floyd delivered a presentation entitled, "Cultural Competency: A Journey to Cultural Diversity" at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in November 2012.
- ❑ Jennifer Johnson delivered a presentation entitled "Refugee Health" at the *American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Conference* in Orlando, Florida in June 2012.
- ❑ Joyce Beard to present a poster presentation entitled, "The Impact of Economic Downturn on Health and Health-Seeking Behaviors of Older Workers" at the *Southern Nursing Research Society's Annual Conference* at Little Rock, AR in March 2013.
- ❑ Dr. Cherry Beasley presented "Writing Across the Curriculum: How do we Accomplish It?" at UNCP in May 2012.
- ❑ Dr. Dena Evans presented "Linking National Quality and Safety Initiatives to Nursing Education" at UNCP in May 2012.
- ❑ Martha Hepler presented "Integrating Concepts and Competencies Through Simulation: From Design to Debriefing" at UNCP in May 2012.
- ❑ Dr. Barbara Synowiez presented "Transforming Clinical Teaching: Answering the IOM Calls for Reform" at UNCP in May 2012.
- ❑ Dr. Theresa Campbell submitted an abstract for a presentation entitled "A Quality Improvement Project: The Development and Implementation of a Culturally Specific Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Education Program in the Hispanic Population" to the *American Nephrology Nurses Association*.

The Great 100, Inc. is a grassroots peer recognition organization honoring the nursing profession in North Carolina whose mission is to positively impact the image of nursing by recognizing nursing excellence and providing scholarships for nursing education in North Carolina. Once The Great 100 Scholarship Committee and Board determine the schools to receive the scholarship funds, each school then selects the recipient for their school. This method of selection supports the belief that the school will know which student is the most deserving of the scholarship. For the 2012-2013 academic year, UNCP senior nursing student, **Courtney Sykes**, received this honor. Congratulations, Courtney!

Sykes Awarded Great 100 Scholarship



Service

Alumni Council Elects Officers

The UNCP Nursing Alumni Council has elected officers for 2012-2013. Results of the election include:

President	Crystal Moore
Vice-President Co-Chairs	Crystal Hunt and Gail Lowery
Secretary	Kathy Locklear
Treasurer	Aprel Ventura
Liaison	Joyce Beard

UNCP nursing alumni are encouraged to become members of the alumni council. Up-to-date information can be found on the UNCP Nursing Alumni Facebook page.

Faculty Senate Elections



For UNCP's Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Dr. Dena Evans has been elected the Divisional Representative for the Faculty Senate for 2013. Congratulations, Dr. Evans, and thank you for your service to the Nursing Department as well as to the University.

Alumni Council News

On October 24th 2012, the UNCP Nursing Alumni Council hosted "Moving Health Forward" an open house in the lobby of the Health Science Building. This came after the Nursing Alumni participated in the Homecoming Parade. Refreshments were served to nursing alumni and visitors to the Health Science Building. The Nursing Alumni will be meeting at various times throughout the year to plan events that further highlight accomplishments of alumni and discuss ways in which to provided community service. The move into the Health Science Building in June of this year was much awaited by alumni. Excited to see the Department of Nursing with a larger space in which to educate more nurses and provide a centralized location for faculty and students to gather the alumni hope that this will only increase the number of students who seek nursing as their profession. The University of North Carolina celebrated 125 years of education. While founded to educate Native Americans the University has expanded its walls and programs and the Nursing Department is pleased to now be housed on the main campus. This provides future nursing alumni with the opportunity to experience nursing at UNCP, as they have never done before.

Service Award



Ms. Jennifer Johnson has been awarded the 2012 Rookie of the Year award from the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA). She was presented with a plaque at the NCNA conference this past fall. Thanks, Ms. Johnson for your commitment to the nursing profession and your dedication to our future nurses.



Dr. Cherry Beasley presented to officials from the Research Triangle Foundation during their two-week "Pathways to Opportunities" tour through various communities of North Carolina. Pembroke was one of over 20 stops across the state, and the overall purpose was for the Research Park to reconnect with communities throughout the state of North Carolina. Dr. Beasley's presentation was entitled, "Education, Scholarship and Service. Keys to a UNCP RTPF Collaboration".

Service

2012 UNCP Pembroke Day

On September 26, 2012, the UNC Pembroke Department of Nursing participated in Pembroke Day. This was a community wide event in which the Town of Pembroke and the University could come together to bring various activities to the community. As part of this even the Department of Nursing setup on campus to offer information to the community related to medications. This event, known as "Brown Bag Medication" was designed to allow members of the community to bring their medications by and have students and staff from the Department of Nursing answer any questions related to medications and to provide a wallet medication list for individuals. This event allowed both junior and senior level nursing students to partner up while communicating with individuals. The experience was both meaningful to students and members of the community. Students were provided the first hand opportunity to see how educating clients is not only done in the hospital setting but in the community as well. Students provided information related to medications, diet and exercise as well as types of questions citizens could ask providers when discussing health care concerns. One student revealed that this was a "real eye opener" for her. She was able to see firsthand how sometimes the information provided in the hospital setting is not understood by clients and how they are hesitant to ask questions. As students were asked to reflect on the activities of the day many comments revealed that these students see the community as the client as well as the individual. This is exactly what the Nursing Department at UNCP teaches. As nursing students the class was able to actively participate in the role of educator and witness how the information they provide can make a difference in the lives of individuals. One individual who had been diagnosed with diabetes and high blood pressure pulled out her unopened Mountain Dew and handed it over to students. She also stated that she would reduce the number of caffeinated beverages she drinks and begin consuming more water instead, reinforcing to students that the education they provide is headed by clients.



Top: Senior nursing student, Kyle Rippenkroeger, provides medication education to a community member during the 2012 Pembroke Day festivities.

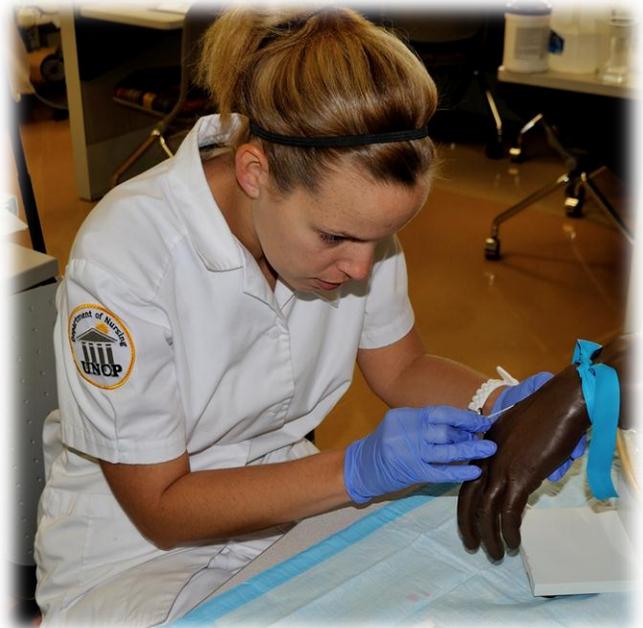
Bottom Left: Senior, Regina Ortiz providing medication training to community members during the annual Pembroke Day.

Bottom Right: Seniors, Victoria Graham, Gina Kirkland and Sabrina Torres waiting to provide medication education.



A Message to our New Recruits

With all of the excitement involved with moving into a brand new building that is loaded with cutting-edge technology and endless possibilities, one must not forget what it is all for. We must not forget our purpose of being here. We are here for our students. We are here to provide them with the most current, evidence-based education that will provide them with the tools necessary to provide high quality healthcare services to clients of all ages and of various cultural backgrounds in order to ensure positive client outcomes. As stated in our philosophy statement, *“We believe that learning is a dynamic process that results in a change in attitude, values, thoughts, and behavior. Each student is unique and learning is influenced by needs, style of learning, age, and past experiences. The student is responsible for learning and must be self-directed and motivated for learning to occur. Learning occurs through the development of critical thinking, active inquiry, clinical decision-making, and active participation in the educational process. Faculty has the responsibility to design learning activities that are innovative, multi-sensory, and progressing from simple to complex. Faculty and students share the responsibility for creating an educational climate that fosters intellectual inquiry, freedom of expression, critical thinking and creativity, and facilitates the development of learner potential. In the teaching/learning process, faculty is responsible for functioning as facilitators, resource persons, and role models, providing educational opportunities for the nursing profession without regard to race, age, creed, color or national origin.”* The Class of 2014 is the first class to begin its nursing education in the Health Sciences Building on the UNCP campus. A few words of encouragement for these students would be to stay focused, study hard and remember why you chose nursing as a profession. Nobody said the journey would be an easy one, nor should it be. You will have the lives of many in your hands. Utilize the vast resources that are made available to you and make the most of every single learning experience you are given the opportunity to participate in. The possibilities are endless.



Top: Sabrina Purvis-West

Bottom left to right: Monica Melvin, Denis Rono, Jessica Curl and Avery Daniel



Front row: Dr. Theresa Campbell, Jennifer Twaddell, Dr. Thelma Floyd, Antonia Clark
Middle row: Aprel Ventura, Dr. Cherry Beasley, Jennifer Jones-Locklear
Back row: Kelvin Townsend, Michelle McEwen, Martha Hepler, Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Dena Evans,
 Joyce Stanley, Mary Baynes, Tiffany Dalmide, Julie Layne and Rebecca Roberts
Not Present: Crystal Moore and Joyce Beard

Professional Nursing Practice

We believe that professional nursing is a dynamic process that evolves as the nurse intervenes and addresses needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. Professional nursing includes interrelated theoretical and practice components. The theoretical component involves the synthesis and application of knowledge from nursing, physical, social, biological and behavioral sciences as well as the humanities. Critical thinking, clinical inquiry and decision-making, and effective interpersonal, oral, written, and technological communication strategies, and psychomotor skills characterize the practice component. Professional nurses function independently and interdependently in a variety of settings and are ethically and legally accountable for the quality of their practice. The professional nurse practices in the roles of advocate, clinician, collaborator/ coordinator, educator, leader, and researcher to continuously improve client outcomes through system effectiveness and individual performance.

As an advocate, the professional nurse represents individuals and/or groups to influence optimal health and well-being and /or correcting health care problems. As a clinician, the professional nurse utilizes the nursing process as a tool to provide nursing care, which sustains life and health, promotes recovery from disease or injury and facilitates contending with its effects. As a collaborator/ coordinator, the professional nurse values the importance of and works jointly with other members of the nursing profession and/or health care disciplines to meet nursing care needs of individuals and multi-person groups. As an educator, the professional nurse assesses and teaches individuals and multi-person groups with a focus on health promotion, maintenance, and wellness. As a leader, the professional nurse utilizes independent decision-making, critical thinking, and problem solving skills to facilitate change within the health care system and/or the nursing profession. As a researcher, the professional nurse reads, interprets, and applies research findings and participates in the scientific method as applied to clinical nursing practice.