

Nursing Notes

Dates to Remember

May 20, 2013

- Spring courses begin

January 13, 2014

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20, 2014

- Last day to drop/add class

February 7, 2014

- Spring break

March 3-8, 2014

- 2nd 8-week courses begin

March 10, 2014

- Last day to withdraw from courses

March 14, 2014

- Advising week

March 17-21, 2014

- Good Friday holiday

April 18, 2014

- Final examinations

May 5-9, 2014

- Graduate commencement

May 9, 2014; 7:00 PM

- Undergraduate commencement



Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2013 issue of "Nursing Notes", the E-Newsletter for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's

Department of Nursing. To learn more about our program, please visit our website at

www.uncp.edu/nursing.

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Message from the Chair



I am so pleased to share with you the Fall/Winter 2013 Department of Nursing e-Newsletter. Highlights of the Department of Nursing's activities since Spring 2013 are presented in this newsletter, and I hope you enjoy and share it with your family and friends.

As you read this edition of Nursing Notes, you will learn about our efforts to increase the number of baccalaureate-prepared and Master-prepared nurses in North Carolina through our RIBN and MSN programs. These efforts reflect our commitment to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities through advancing the education of nurses to provide the highest quality of nursing care.

The faculty continues to excel in teaching, scholarship, and service, and many of their accomplishments are highlighted in this newsletter.

I would like to thank our alumni, donors, faculty, and staff for their support of the Department of Nursing. Without you, the accomplishments of the Department of Nursing would not be possible. If you would like to visit, please call 910-521-6522 and we will be pleased to arrange a tour for you.

I wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a blessed 2014. Enjoy this edition of Nursing Notes!

Barbara B. Synowiez, PhD, MSN, RN

Chair and Professor

Moving Forward with the South Central NC RIBN Collaborative



To practice as a professional registered nurse, one must earn either a diploma in nursing, an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Graduates from all programs are required

to take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in order to practice as a nurse.

In addition to the traditional coursework completed in diploma and ADN programs, nurses earning a BSN are immersed in courses related to the physical and social sciences, nursing research and evidence-based practice, public and community health, nursing leadership and the humanities. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) (2012) asserts that these additional learning opportunities enhance the professional nurse's professional development and the understanding of how socioeconomic, cultural and political issues affect healthcare and its delivery to clients.

Enhanced skills in critical thinking, leadership, case management and health promotion is becoming more evident in nurses who have earned a BSN as more and more research provides evidence that nurses prepared at this level are associated with better client outcomes, lower mortality rates, and stronger communication and problem-solving skills (AACN, 2012).

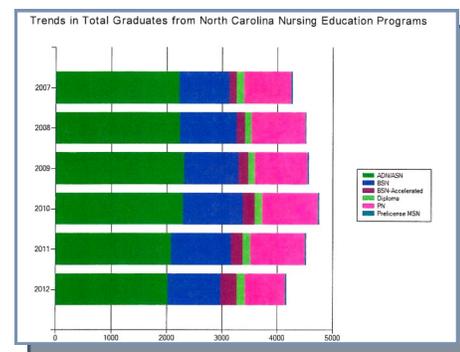
Professional leaders and policymakers have recognized the impact education has on client outcomes, and they have recognized the disparities that exist in our nursing workforce. The Institute of Medicine (IOM, 2010) released its report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, charging us to increase the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in our workforce to 80% by 2020. In response to the need of increasing our numbers of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in North Carolina, the Foundation for

Nursing Excellence, located in Raleigh, NC, initiated the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) Project.

The RIBN project represents a partnership between community or private colleges and universities allows students to utilize a dual enrollment, four-year shared curriculum track to achieve a BSN at the start of their nursing careers (Foundation for Nursing Excellence, 12/18/2013). The overall mission of this project is "to improve the health and health outcomes of North Carolinians by increasing the educational preparation and diversity of the nursing workforce."

The UNCP Department of Nursing has taken the lead in the South Central NC RIBN Collaborative. This collaborative, directed by Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, will provide a seamless associate to baccalaureate nursing education for top academic students. Their first three years of study will be at one of the partner community colleges in collaboration with UNCP. Upon successful completion of the first three years and passing the NCLEX-RN, students will be eligible to practice and matriculate into the fourth year of the program here at UNCP. Collaborative partners for this project include Richmond Community College, Robeson Community College, Sandhills Community College and Southeastern Community College.

The South Central NC RIBN program will begin its first class in Fall 2014. For more information about this program, please visit our website at <http://www.uncp.edu/nursing/RIBN/>.



North Carolina Board of Nursing, 2013

NCNA District 15 Meeting

Nursing Faculty Honored at the 2013 NCNA Final District 15 Meeting

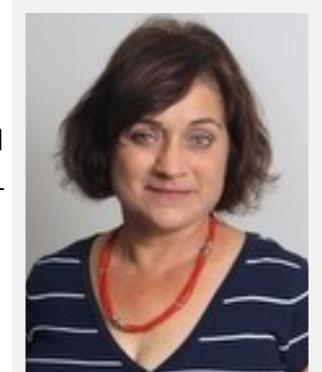
The North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) is a professional nursing organization for registered nurses. According to the NCNA, their mission is as follows: “The [North Carolina Nurses Association](#) serves the changing needs of its members, addresses nursing issues, and advocates for the health and well-being of all people.” This organization was established in 1902 and is divided into several regions.

On December 10, 2013, District 15, consisting of Bladen, Hoke, southern Moore, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland counties) had its final meeting and honored several of the nurses who are part of the nursing faculty here at UNCP.



Dr. Barbara Synowiez was honored as the district’s Outstanding Nurse for 2013. Dr. Synowiez is Chair for the Department of Nursing and continues teaching nursing research to prelicensure students.

Dr. Cherry Beasley was one of three recipients of the Hallmark Educators Award for 2013. Dr. Beasley currently serves as coordinator for the RN-BSN and RN-MSN programs.



Lastly four UNCP nursing faculty were awarded the NCNA Transition Scholarship Awards. Recipients include, left to right, Joyce Beard, Antonia Clark, Jennifer Jones-Locklear and Aprel Ventura.



Pinning and Recognition Ceremony



Eleven Students Honored at the 2013 Winner Pinning and Recognition Ceremony

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, eleven students, including two prelicensure students, were awarded their UNCP nursing pin in December 2013. Dr. Cherry Beasley, coordinator for the RN-BSN program, called each graduate's name as he/she was pinned by Dr. Barbara Synowicz, Chair of the Department of Nursing.

What's New for 2013-2014?

Nursing Welcomes Master in Nursing (MSN) Students

The department of nursing is proud to report that 22 students were admitted into the newly-approved Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program for the Fall 2013 semester.

The MSN program provides nurses with an opportunity to build expertise in specialized areas of practice while enhancing their skills in theory and research in professional practice. Students can enroll either as full-time or part-time students. UNCP offers three areas of specialization in the MSN program including Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Leader and Rural Case Manager.

The Department of Nursing plans to admit up to 10 additional students for the Spring 2014 semester. The first student is anticipated to graduate in the program in 2015.

For more information regarding our MSN program, please visit our website at www.uncp.edu/nursing.

Department Welcomes New Faculty



Dr. Lester Brigman, Assistant Professor, joined the UNCP Nursing team in August 2013. During the fall 2013 semester, he was actively engaged with both junior- and senior-level nursing students in NUR 3200, *Health Assessment Across the*

Lifespan, and NUR 4350, *Community Health Nursing*.

Dr. Brigman earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Lander University, a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Science in Education from Francis Marion University, and just recently earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Frontier Nursing University. Dr. Brigman is certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. He will be coordinating the NUR 3500, Family Nursing II, course for the Spring 2014 semester.



Astrid Oviedo, MSN, RN, OCN, joined the department during the Summer 2013 session with our new junior students (Class of 2015) enrolled in NUR 3030, Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice. During the Fall semester, Ms. Oviedo, was part of the faculty team for

NUR 3150, Adult Health Nursing I. She also worked in the Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) part-time, offering free tutoring services to current nursing majors.

Ms. Oviedo has a Bachelor of Law from the University of the Philippines and earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has also earned her certification in Oncology Nursing.

Ms. Oviedo will be part of the NUR 4450, Adult Health Nursing II, for the Spring 2014 semester.

What's New for 2013-2014?

Joyce Stanley Appointed Coordinator of the Learning Enhancement Center



Assistant professor, Joyce Stanley, has been appointed as coordinator for the Learning Enhancement Center (LEC).

The LEC was opened in 2008 in an effort to provide comprehensive academic and social services to all pre-nursing majors as well as students enrolled in both the precertificate and RN-BSN programs. The goals of the LEC are to promote the overall retention rate of students and to achieve a minimum of 90% passage rate per year of graduates on the NCLEX-RN exam on their first attempt, in order to increase the number of professional nurses capable of providing competent, quality, culturally-specific health care to diverse populations in their rural, underserved communities.

Ms. Stanley also fulfills the role coordinator for Adult Health I and Adult Health II. For more information about the LEC, please visit its website by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Jennifer Twaddell Named RIBN Project Director

Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, has assumed the role of RIBN Project Director. Dr. Twaddell received her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Duke University and recently earned her PhD from UNC Greensboro.

In addition to her new role as RIBN Project director, Dr. Twaddell currently serves as course coordinator for the Family Nurse I course and will take an active role in the Masters program.



To obtain additional information about the RIBN project, please refer to the previous article.

Clinical Learning Center (CLC) Gains Two Student Assistants

If you have visited the department of nursing this academic year, you may have noticed a couple of new faces in the CLC. Senior nursing student, Miranda Castañeda, and pre-nursing student, Justin Smith, hit the ground running this past Fall and have made a tremendous impact on the everyday functioning of the CLC. In addition to the basic maintenance and clean-up of the labs, Miranda and Justin have fulfilled many roles within the CLC including assisting junior students during voluntary practice sessions, role-playing patients and/or family members, and managing the audiovisual equipment and high-fidelity

simulators. Both students have been a true asset to the CLC, and this work experience has proven beneficial to them as well. Ms. Castaneda has been immersed in reviews of skills/concepts already learned, while Justin has received a semester-long preview of what is to come. The department is extremely grateful to have them.



Teaching



Faculty and staff have been spending many hours in the Clinical Learning Center (CLC). This past semester, students were exposed to a variety of simulated experiences in multiple courses. SimMan and SimMan 3G the most by juniors during their Adult Health I and Health Assessment Across the Lifespan courses. Utilizing these simulators in the CLC allows students to have a more realistic experience, one that is safe, and provides them ample opportunities to apply concepts being learned in the classroom.

Students were able to practice their assessment skills, psychomotor skills, communicate with clients and their support persons as well as provide valuable education related to direct care activities and health promotion efforts.

Pictured on the top left are two junior students caring for a 3-day post-operative hemicolecotomy client who required pain management and extensive reinforcement of basic post-operative self-care activities.



Faculty member, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, is pictured to the left observing her clinical students caring for the client mentioned above. Our high-tech lab allows faculty to observe the students directly as well as record the experiences so that clips can be played back for students to enhance their learning further.

The department is committed to becoming a leader in simulated learning and will continue to incorporate this innovative teaching strategy into the nursing curriculum.

During their Community Health Nursing rotations, senior nursing students completed a comprehensive community assessment of the county in which they completed their clinical experiences. Based on analysis of their assessment data, students implemented a community intervention to address the high-risk needs of their assigned aggregates. Students were instructed to focus on obesity and motor vehicle accidents as their aggregate groups. Community intervention projects were implemented in Hoke and Robeson Counties as part of their Community Health Nursing clinical requirements.

This project was continued in their Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing course as they addressed the mental health aspects associated with either obesity or motor vehicle accidents. The students designed and displayed poster presentations in the Chavis University Center here on the UNCP campus.

During the three hours of display, senior nursing students interacted with over one hundred UNCP students discussing their project and ways to deal with the identified issues of concern related to motor vehicle accidents and/or obesity.

Pre-nursing students enrolled in the Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community, participated in this event and provided positive feedback to the experience.



Scholarship

Research Initiatives

- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans and Dr. Barbara Synowiez: *"Ability of the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) to Predict Student Success in Nursing School"*
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans, Joyce Stanley, April Ventura, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, Jennifer Jones-Locklear, Martha Hepler, Dr. Theresa Campbell: *"ATI Nurse's Touch Initiative"*
- ◇ Jennifer Johnson: *"Cultural Competency and Refugees: Assessment of Nursing Staff in a Rural Healthcare System."*

Publications

- ◇ Joyce Beard will have an article published in the next issue of *School Nurse* entitled "Adolescent and Child Maltreatment".
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans will have an article entitled "Justin Smith finds Success in Nursing Community", published in the upcoming edition of *UNCP Today*, the University's alumni magazine, related to student engagement.

Grant Initiatives

- ◇ Polly Johnson (CEO—Foundation for Nursing Excellence), South Central NC Collaborative (Barbara Synowiez, Dr. Cherry Beasley, Eva Meekins, Cheryl McNeill, Al West, Carole Gibson), and other select schools of nursing in NC: *North Carolina RIBN Project* (Funded

Presentations

- by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- ◇ Mrs. Jennifer Jones-Locklear presented in the Cancer Education and Community Resource Forum: Changing Lifestyles, Living Longer Program in Antioch, NC.
- ◇ Dr. Theresa Campbell—Abstract approved: "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*.

Faculty Recognitions

- ◇ Dr. Barbara Synowiez was honored as a 2013 Outstanding Nurse at the Final NCNA District 15 Meeting
- ◇ Dr. Cherry Beasley was awarded the Hallmark Educator's Award at the Final NCNA District 15 meeting.
- ◇ Dr. Lester Brigman earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Frontier University.
- ◇ Antonia Clark, Jennifer Jones-Locklear and April Ventura enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program at East Carolina University.
- ◇ Joyce Beard, Antonia Clark, Jennifer Jones-Locklear and April Ventura were awarded Transition Scholarship Awards from the NCNA.

- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans awarded the Elizabeth Scott Carrington Scholarship at UNC Chapel Hill.
- ◇ Jennifer Johnson has obtained recertification as a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner through the National Certification Corporation for the Obstetrical, Gynecological and Neonatal Nursing Specialties.
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans and Martha Hepler have submitted an abstract for the upcoming 2014 NLN Education Summit entitled "Ensuring the Acquisition of Leadership Skills through the use of Simulation."
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans has submitted an abstract for the upcoming National ATI Nurse Educator Summit that focuses on the incorporation of QSEN competencies into the curriculum.
- ◇ Dr. Tiffany has published three articles in *Saved Newspaper* and will be hosting a segment on *Saved News*, based out of Goldsboro, NC.
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans attended a conference sponsored by the Duke University School of Nursing entitled, "Pursuing Radical Change in Nursing Education."



ANS Takes a Lead in Service

ANS Elects Officers

The 2013-2014 academic year started off with a bang for the Association of Nursing Students (ANS). This year has turned out the greatest number of active members in the association's history, with over 100 active members joining the nursing student organization.

This year, the student association took great initiative to include the *Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community* participants to get them engaged with departmental and community service projects early in their educational journeys.

Elections for officers was held in September, and this year the association has a very strong board of officers. We predict great things happening within the association this year, with the community reaping the benefits of their time and service.

2013-2014 ANS Officers Include:

President: Avery Daniel

Vice-President: Casey Horne

Secretary: Maria Jordan

Treasure: Charles Kurtz

Junior Executive: Keri Hughes

Senior Executive: Miranda Castañeda

Breakthrough to the Nursing

Director: Melissa King

ANS Serving the Community

The Department of Nursing places a strong emphasis on service, not only to the department and to the University, but also to the community as a whole. Service does not stop with faculty and staff, and the Association of Nursing Students (ANS) has recognized this and took the lead in community service efforts for the Fall 2013 semester.



ANS President, Avery Daniel, states, *"The goals I am hoping ANS will achieve this year consist mainly of growth, stabilization and impact. I want ANS to be an organization that makes a positive impact in both the lives of it's members as well as the lives of fellow students and community members."*

We are only halfway through the academic year, and the ANS has already demonstrated a positive impact on many people in the Pembroke area. In three separate drives, members of the ANS collected:

- 160+ nonperishable food items (see photo)
- 45 hygiene bags (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc...)
- 40+ blankets
- 20 pairs of socks
- 20 toboggans/gloves

Collected items were donated to the UNCP campus food pantry and Sacred Pathways Crisis Ministry to assist those who may be in need of assistance. Together, we can, and do, accomplish great things!



Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community

This is the second year that the [Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community \(DNL3C\)](#) has welcomed freshman pre-nursing students to the UNCP campus and to the Department of Nursing. This year, we welcomed approximately 239 freshman and became reacquainted with approximately 46 returning sophomores who qualified and/or showed desire to continue participating in the DNL3C events.

The group, coordinated by nursing faculty members, Joyce Beard and Martha Hepler, participated in the following events during the Fall 2013 semester, all of which the students earned points.

Month	Event
August	Ice Cream Social
	ANS Membership Drive
September	Health and Fitness Activity
	Nursing Panel Discussion
October	Domestic Violence Theater Production
	Nursing Panel Discussion
November	Great American Smoke Out Activity
	Mental Health Poster Presentations
December	Holiday Social and Card-Making

These events are designed to introduce pre-nursing students to the nursing profession, promote interaction with nursing faculty and current nursing students and could gain them guaranteed admission into the UNCP pre-licensure BSN program pending completion of other admission requirements.

The pictures on the right will provide a visual representation of events offered this semester. This program strives to provide our pre-nursing majors with opportunities for academic support, career exploration and integrated social experiences.



Take Note

Dr. Tiffany Tyson Wins Crown



Dr.

Tiffany Tyson has been crowned as Ms. Saved News 2013. Saved News is a Christian television show and newspaper out of Goldsboro, NC. Dr. Tyson has published three articles for the Saved Newspaper and will be hosting a segment on the Saved News Christian television show. Dr. Tyson joined the UNCP team in the Spring of 2013. She is a member of the Psychiatric/Mental Health faculty team and will assist with NUR 4120, Leadership in Nursing, and NUR 3500, Family Nursing II, during the Spring 2014 semester. Dr. Tyson is plans to completing her second Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (DNP) within

Department of Nursing Hosts Community of Interest Advisory Committee Meeting

On Friday, November 1, 2013, the Department of Nursing hosted a Community of Interest Advisory Committee meeting.

Roles of this committee include:

- ◆ Serve as advocates and ambassadors for the Department of Nursing
- ◆ Provide insight into trends and changes in health care and their implications for nursing education, research and practice
- ◆ Provide essential advice and support for the continuing development and delivery of high quality educational programs for both undergraduate and graduate nursing students
- ◆ Advise the Chair and nursing faculty in the implementation of the Department of Nursing strategic priorities
- ◆ Assist in building funding sources for scholarships and program support throughout the communities we serve

Dr. Barbara Synowiez chaired the meeting and highlighted the department's quality indicators, nursing faculty and staff census, the upcoming Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Accreditation process, and challenges and future opportunities for the department.

Individual reports were given by:

- ◆ Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, RIBN Project Director
- ◆ Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, Director of Undergraduate Programs
- ◆ Dr. Cherry Beasley, Coordinator for RN/MSN Program
- ◆ Mrs. Martha Hepler, Director of the Clinical Learning Center
- ◆ Mrs. Joyce Stanley, Coordinator of the Learning Enhancement Center
- ◆ Mrs. Crystal Moore, President of UNCP Nursing Alumni Association



UNCP Nursing Alumni Host Tailgating Event

The UNCP Nursing Alumni Association hosted a tailgating event on Saturday, September 28, 2013, as the UNCP Braves football team hosted Wingate.

There have been 550 graduates from the BSN program at UNCP since 1992.

Pictured to the left are alumni, April Ventura and Kathy Locklear, showing their UNCP pride.

GO BRAVES!

Department of Nursing Plans for 2014 UNCP Relay for Life

The Department of Nursing is already planning for the 2014 UNCP Relay for Life Event to be held April 11-12, 2014.

The nursing department has decided to merge forces and have one large team rather than two smaller teams. In the past, the students would have one team, and the faculty/staff would have another. We realized that our efforts are for the same cause, and we also realized that together, we can accomplish more.

Our team will consist of nursing faculty, staff, enrolled students and prelicensure and DNL3C students. We have been awarded the best campsite for the past two years and have every intention of retaining our title.

Together, students and faculty raised over \$5,000 last year, but that was without the inclusion of our DNL3C students. Thus, this year, we are aiming big and have set a goal of \$10,000! With your help, we know we can do it. So, please, consider joining our team and/or making a donation to support our cause. To join the team or to make a donation, follow this link: [UNCP Nursing Relay for Life](#).

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