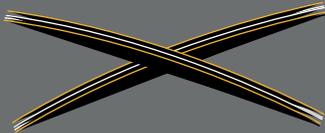




Nursing Notes

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2014 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.



Important Dates

- ◆ May 26, 2014: Memorial Day; University closed
- ◆ May 27, 2014: Summer Session I begins
- ◆ June 23-25, 2014 : New student orientation
- ◆ July 7, 2014: Summer Session II begins
- ◆ August 20, 2014: Fall courses begin

In This Issue

- Message from the Chair
- Graduation/Pinning 2014
- Special Recognitions
- Faculty Earn Terminal Degrees
- Faculty & Staff News
- Director of Graduate Programs
- UNCP Outstanding Teaching Award
- Scholarship Activities
- 2014 Relay for Life Campaign
- Service Activities
- Student and Alumni News

Message from the Chair



I am pleased to share with you the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Department of Nursing spring/summer 2014 edition of our e-Newsletter, "Nursing Notes". In this e-Newsletter, you will have the opportunity to learn of the many exciting accomplishments of our nursing faculty, students, and alumni. What an exciting time it is for the Department of Nursing!

The Department of Nursing has an outstanding baccalaureate program. Recent statistics from the North Carolina Board of Nursing, indicated that graduates of the pre-licensure BSN program achieved a 3-year average NCLEX-RN® pass rate of 99%; the highest among baccalaureate nursing programs in the state. Graduates of the program readily secure employment in a variety of health care settings in the region, state and across the nation. Our RN-BSN program continues to grow and provides seamless opportunities for diploma and associate degree nurses to earn a baccalaureate degree through six RN-BSN bridge programs with area community colleges.

In fall 2013, we opened our Master of Science (MSN) degree program with our first cohort of 19 students. Students enrolled in the master's of science degree in nursing may specialize as either a Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Leader, or Rural Case Manager. The MSN program is accessible to nurses with a BSN and RNs with a diplomas or associate's degree.

The nursing faculty continues to excel in teaching, scholarship, and service. In this edition of "Nursing Notes", many of those accomplishments are highlighted. The faculty continues to exemplify their commitment to our vision of achieving regional distinction as a leader of excellence in our nursing educational programs and in scholarship, service, and community engagement.

As you read the stories in this issue of the e-Newsletter, I encourage you to share your story with us. We are interested in hearing about your personal and professional accomplishments and want to recognize you for those achievements. As alumni, friends, students, and faculty, you are key our success as a Department of Nursing!

Enjoy the spring/summer 2014 edition of "Nursing Notes"

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



42 Graduate with BSN

A large crowd of nearly 6,000 attended the undergraduate ceremony on Saturday, May 10, 2014, when the University of North Carolina at Pembroke awarded degrees to a record number of 626 undergraduates, 42 of which were for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

More specific to recognizing the accomplishments of BSN graduates is the Department of Nursing's Pinning and Recognition Ceremony which was held on Thursday, May 8, 2014. Dr. Barbara Synowiez presented each graduate with his/her nursing pin, signifying the completion of educational requirements to become a registered nurse. Graduates received the Lamp of Knowledge, symbolizing the body of knowledge and skills that is fundamental to the practice of professional nursing and illuminates the way to excellence in the nursing profession. Lori Dove, Vice President of Post-Acute Care at Southeastern Health, presented an individual rose to each graduate on behalf of Southeastern Health. The graduates committed to the International Pledge for Professional Nursing, affirming the common goals of all nurses around the world.

Pre-licensure BSN graduates are now eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Class of 2014

Pre-licensure Candidates

Jennifer Andrews
 Victoria I. Andrews
 Elizabeth Jordan Barnes
 Cinthya N. Bowmaker
 Brooke C. Byrd
 Miranda J. Castaneda
 Avery M. Daniel
 Amy Nicole Dean
 Ryan Floyd
 Allona Frazier
 Jamie L. Gibson
 Ashley Enid González
 Julious K. Hagans
 Brian S. Hoferer
 Liza Howle
 Robin Lain Hunt
 Carolyn Jackson
 Hannah Johnson
 Sonja J. Karsner
 C. Conrad Kurtz
 Bridger Martin
 Elizabeth Paige McInnis
 Kimberly D. McNeill
 Marvette Myers
 Xiaoyan Shi
 Kasie A. Smith
 Audrianna D. Vik

Sabrina C. West
 Caitlin R. Williams
 Hannah A. Wuellner

RN-BSN Candidates

Sharon Bostic, RN *
 James R. Bromley-Turner II, RN
 Kimberly Brooks, RN
 Anna M. Bryan, RN *
 Janet Campbell RN
 Deborah Cannon, RN
 Mitchell Caulder RN
 Vincent Cenzia, RN *
 Annette Davis, RN *
 Dianna Edwards, RN
 Rachele Kesha Hinton, RN
 April Jacobs, RN *
 Flameka Moore, RN *
 April Newsome, RN *
 Ashley Odum, RN
 Sandra Oxendine, RN
 Donna Parker, RN *
 Sophia Peyton-Savage, RN*
 Dana Rozier, RN
 Candace Leigh Sampson RN
 Esther L. Stubbs-Rush, RN

* RN-BSN Graduates from December 2013



Audrianna Vik received the 2014 pre-licensure **Nursing Excellence Award**, presented annually to the nursing student who has a GPA of 3.85 or higher and who demonstrates excellence in professional nursing practice. The RN-BSN recipient was **Donna Parker** (photo unavailable). Nursing faculty select the recipients of this award.

Miranda Castañeda received the 2014 pre-licensure **Nursing Practice Award**, presented annually to a nursing student who demonstrates excellence in the application of nursing theories and professional nursing roles. The RN-BSN recipient was **Anna Bryan** (photo unavailable). Nursing faculty choose the recipients of this award. **Miranda** was also the recipient of the **Association of Nursing Students (ANS) Leadership Award**, presented annually to a member of the ANS who has a GPA of 3.0 or higher and who most exemplifies leadership potential amongst the ANS membership. Members of the ANS select the recipient of this award.

Jennifer Andrews received the 2014 **Scotland Memorial Hospital Nursing Service Award**, presented annually to the nursing student who best meets the criteria of scholastic ability, professionalism, interpersonal relationship skills and caring attitude. The award was presented by Karen Carlisle, Emergency Center Director for Scotland Healthcare System. Nursing faculty select the recipient of this award.

Special Recognitions

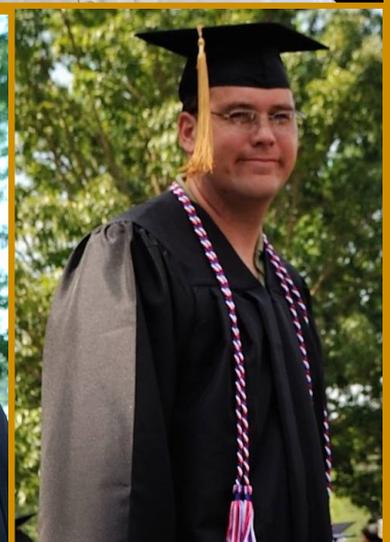


Certificate of Achievement

On September 11, 2012, the Department of Nursing suffered the tragic loss of junior nursing student, Dianne Elizabeth Castellanos. As members of her nursing class received their nursing pins at the 2014 Pinning and Recognition Ceremony, Dianne's memory was also honored as Dr. Kenneth Kitts, UNCP Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented a *Certificate of Achievement* to Dianne's mother, Elizabeth B. Parker. Ms. Parker accepted the certificate and spoke a few words about her daughter, describing her as being "full of life" and touching the lives of many. This certificate is the first of its kind for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Pictured are Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Director of Undergraduate Programs, and Ms. Elizabeth Parker.



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

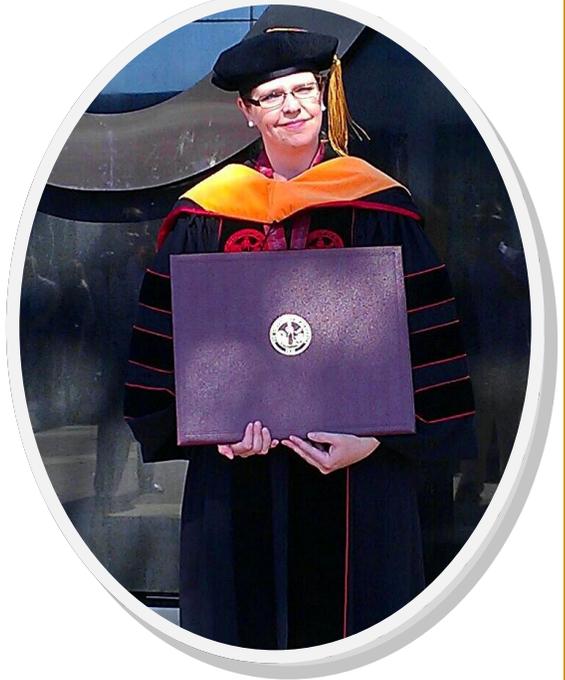


Faculty Earn Terminal Degrees

Dr. Jennifer Johnson completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) requirements for the University of Alabama in May 2014. She earned a BSN from Barton College, a MSN from East Carolina University and her Women's Health Nurse Practitioner from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Johnson's research focus during her DNP program is entitled, *"Cultural competency and refugees: Assessment of nursing staff in a rural healthcare system."* She presented *"Orthopedic Emergencies"* in January 2014 at the NC School Nurse Conference in Fayetteville, NC. In June 2014, she will present a poster entitled, *"Writing enrichment: Improving writing skills through community-based service learning"* with faculty peer, Joyce Beard, at the Drexel University Education Institute in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Dr. Johnson's main focus for teaching includes *Pathophysiology, Community Health Nursing* and *Advanced Pathophysiology*. She joined the UNCP nursing faculty team when the pre-licensure program 2n 2003 and was promoted to Director of Undergraduate Programs in March of 2013.



Dr. Tiffany D. Tyson completed her second DNP from Robert Morris University with a concentration as a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. As a current UNCP Assistant Professor, Dr. Tyson's teaching responsibilities include: Psychiatric/Mental Health, Foundations of Nursing, Leadership and Family Nursing II. She also works as a Family Nurse Practitioner in retail healthcare providing primary care for the greater triangle area. She is currently the reigning Mrs. Saved News 2013-2014 for Saved News



Christian television and newspaper in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Dr. Tyson is the Founder of MARC & LISA Youth Development and Leadership Program and the Author of *Urban Princess*. She holds a BSN with a concentration in psychology and religion from Barton College and a MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Duke University. Her research focus project, entitled *Challenging the Spectrum of Polypharmacy*, was supervised by Carl Ross, Ph.D. Dr. Tyson joined the UNCP nursing faculty team in January 2013.

Faculty and Staff News

Department Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



Jennifer Coughenour, RN, MSN, joined the nursing faculty team in March 2014. Teaching responsibilities include *Leadership in Nursing* and *Community Health Nursing*. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Richmond Community College and completed the RN-BSN program here at UNCP. She earned her MSN with a focus in Clinical Nurse Leader from the University of South Alabama in 2013 and is currently enrolled in their Post-Master Certificate Program for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

Briana Davis joined the nursing department in April 2014 as the Nurse Liaison for the Rural Education Mobility Project. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN. Ms. Davis is a Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) and a member of the National Healthcare Association.



James Crouch joined the department in May 2014 as the new Student Success Advocate for the RIBN program. Mr. Crouch earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from East Carolina University.

Faculty Spirit of Nursing Award



The *Faculty Spirit of Nursing Award* is presented annually to a member of the faculty who most inspires and exemplifies teaching excellence and professional nursing for students. Members of the graduating class (including RN-BSN and pre-licensure students) select the recipient of this award. The class of 2014 selected Mrs. Martha Hepler as their recipient. Mrs. Hepler joined the UNCP nursing team in January 2011. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Hepler serves as Director of the Clinical Learning Center, faculty advisor for the Association of Nursing Students, co-coordinator for the *Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community (DNL3C)* and captain of the Department of Nursing's Relay for Life team.

Teaching

Director of Graduate Programs



Jennifer Twaddell, PhD, RN, has been promoted to Director of Graduate Programs for the UNCP Department of Nursing. Dr. Twaddell has been a member of the nursing faculty team since the pre-licensure program began in 2004. She received her BSN from

Radford University, MSN from Duke University and her PhD from UNC Greensboro.

The UNCP Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program enrolled its first students in the Fall of 2013 and offers nurses the opportunity to build expertise in specialized areas of practice while enhancing skills in theory and research in professional nursing practice. UNCP currently offers three areas of specialization in the MSN program including nurse educator, clinical nurse leader and rural case manager. In this Master's program, Dr. Twaddell currently teaches *Advanced Nursing Concepts in Theory and Practice* and plans to teach a couple new courses in the nurse educator track for Fall 2014.

In addition to her new role of Director of Graduate Programs, Dr. Twaddell continues to serve as coordinator for the RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) Program, whose mission is to improve health outcomes of North Carolinians by increasing educational preparation and diversity of the nursing workforce.

UNCP Outstanding Teaching Award

Department of Nursing faculty member, Dr. Dena Evans, was honored at the UNCP Faculty Appreciation Dinner in May 2014 as a recipient of the UNCP *Outstanding Teaching Award*.



Recipients of this award are chosen by the UNCP Faculty Awards Committee whose goal is to identify outstanding teachers who *"demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to professional growth, are effective through clear course materials and presentations, varied instructional strategies, and suitable measures of student learning, while displaying skill in engaging student interest, challenging students, and eliciting high levels of student achievement."* Dr. Evans teaches *Pharmacology for Clinical Practice* and *Leadership in Nursing* for pre-licensure students and *Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice* in the MSN program.

In April 2014, Dr. Evans was inducted into the Alpha Alpha chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at UNC Chapel Hill where she is enrolled in the Clinical Nurse Leader track of the MSN program. She received a 2014 Sigma Theta Tau small research grant associated with her studies.

Dr. Evans recently presented a poster at the National ATI Educator's Summit entitled, *"Acquiring key leadership skills through the use of simulation and select Nurses' Touch modules"*. In September 2014, she will present a poster (with faculty peer, Martha Hepler) at the 2014 National League for Nursing Education Summit entitled, *"Using the Simulation Design Scale and Educational Practices Questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of simulation in the acquisition of leadership skills."* Evans also served as a faculty sponsor during the 2014 UNCP PURC Symposium for pre-nursing student, Justin Smith.

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. Cherry Beasley, team of UNCP and UNC-CH faculty, "Center for Diabetes Translation Research to reduce disparities (CDTR) pilot and feasibility program."
- ◇ Dr. Jennifer Johnson, "Cultural competency and refugees: Assessment of nursing staff in a rural healthcare system."

Publications

- ◇ Beard, J. (2014). Adolescents and child maltreatment. *NASN School Nurse*, 29 (2), 71-74.

Grant Initiatives

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

Faculty Presentations

- ◇ Dr. Cherry Beasley and Jennifer Jones-Locklear—The Lumbee Tribal Changing Lifestyles, Living Longer Program; May 2014; "Fighting the war on cancer by eating healthy and early screenings."
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans—National ATI Educator's Summit in Orlando, FL; April 2014; "Acquiring key leadership skills



The Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity (PURC) Center of UNCP stimulates, supports and promotes inquiry, discovery and creativity in scholarship and the arts through mentored research experiences with faculty and other scholars. Dr. Dena Evans served as faculty sponsor for pre-nursing student, Justin Smith, who presented a poster entitled, "Exploring potential barriers to success for LGB students in Baccalaureate nursing programs." This poster earned 3rd place in the Business, Social and Behavioral Sciences division during the 2014 UNCP PURC Symposium.

through the use of simulation and select Nurse's Touch Modules."

- ◇ Jennifer Johnson—NC School Nurse Conference in Fayetteville, NC; January 2014; "Orthopedic emergencies"
- ◇ Dr. Jennifer Johnson and Joyce Beard—Poster presentation at Drexel University Education Institute; Myrtle Beach, SC; June 2014; "Writing enrichment: Improving writing skills through community-based service learning."
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans and Martha Hepler—Poster presentation at the 2014 National League for Nursing (NLN) Education Summit, Phoenix, AZ; September 2014; "Using the Simulation

Design Scale and Educational Practices Questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of simulation in the acquisition of leadership skills."

Faculty Recognitions

- ◇ Joyce Beard—enrolled in PhD program at UNC Greensboro
- ◇ Antonia Clark—enrolled in PhD program at East Carolina University
- ◇ Dr. Dena Evans—enrolled in MSN program with focus on Clinical Nurse Leader at UNC Chapel Hill
- ◇ Dr. Jennifer Johnson—graduated with DNP from the University of Alabama in May 2014
- ◇ Jennifer Jones-Locklear—attended a conference entitled *Excellence in Teaching for Nurse Educators* sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing and Center for Lifelong Learning; May 2014
- ◇ Jennifer Jones-Locklear—enrolled in PhD program at East Carolina University
- ◇ Martha Hepler—attended 5th Annual "You Bought the Manikin, Now What?" conference sponsored by the Greensboro, Charlotte and Southeastern Regional AHECs; March 2014
- ◇ Martha Hepler—enrolled in FNP program at UNC Wilmington
- ◇ Astrid Oviedo—accepted into PhD program for Fall 2014 at UNC Greensboro
- ◇ Dr. Tiffany Tyson—graduated with 2nd DNP from Robert Morris University in May 2014
- ◇ April Ventura—enrolled in PhD program at East Carolina University

Service

Nursing Raises Over \$12,000 for Relay for Life!

The department of nursing crushed its \$10,000 goal for the 2014 UNCP Relay for life campaign. This year, nursing faculty, staff, nursing/pre-nursing students joined forces to “finish the fight and celebrate each life”, raising \$12,111.18 of the \$23,585.11 raised for this year’s event. The nursing team was awarded for outstanding service and received the highest overall and event fundraising awards.

Throughout the campaign faculty and students alike modeled great enthusiasm through personal donations and participation in fundraising events (Polar Plunge, yard sale, pie in face). The team raffled a set of 31 bags (donated by junior Shannon Merwin), a hand-knitted shawl (donated by nursing alumni Victoria Graham) and two handmade corn hole game sets (made and donated by senior nursing student and cancer survivor, Charles Kurtz).

It was a true team effort that encouraged students and faculty to work together as a team to achieve a common goal. GO TEAM!!!!



Be the Match Donor Drive

During the 2014 Relay for Life event, UNCP nursing faculty and students co-sponsored a *Be the Match*

donor drive, collecting cheek swabs of 43 potential stem cell donors. **Be the Match** is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program and has managed the largest and most diverse marrow registry in the world (www.bethematch.org). A stem cell transplant is used to treat many life-threatening blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma. Pictured above is rising senior nursing student, Casey Horne, obtaining a cheek sample for the registry.

Nursing faculty member, Jennifer Twaddell (bottom left), was a true sport and demonstrated awesome team spirit during Relay for Life by voluntarily taking a few pies in the face, complements of our current nursing students, as one of our fundraising efforts. Team members, Martha Hepler, Jennifer Johnson (bottom right) and Justin Smith chose to take a Polar Plunge for pledges. Those pies were sticky and the water was cold, but it was all so very much worth the time and effort that went into such a successful team effort.



Service

Nursing Students Promote Health During the 2014 Family Day Events

Junior nursing students enrolled in NUR 3500 (Family Nursing II) during Spring 2014 provided health promotion information to students and family members who participated in the 2014 UNCP Family Day event. Information regarding healthy nutrition and body weight, growth and developmental milestones with anticipatory guidance and sun safety were provided. These health promotion activities supported a few goals as set forth by *Healthy People 2020* including to: 1) promote health and reduce chronic disease risk through the consumption of healthful diets and achievement and maintenance of healthy body weights, 2) improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children and families, and to 3) reduce the number of new cases of cancer, as well as the illness, disability and death caused by cancer. *Healthy People* provides science-based, 10-year national objectives to fulfill its vision of “a society in which all people live long, healthy lives.”



Recognized for Service

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Chair, Department of Nursing, and Mrs. Martha Hepler, Director, Clinical Learning Center, were both recognized in February 2014 at a special luncheon hosted by UNCP's Chancellor Kyle Carter and Provost Ken Kitts. The purpose of this luncheon was to acknowledge select faculty who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary contributions to the life of the University and to the success of their students outside of the classroom. Dr. Synowiez recommended Mrs. Hepler for recognition to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Mark Canada, who designated them both for inclusion in this year's groups of honorees.

Mentors Advancing for Distinction and Empowerment (M.A.D.E.) is a student organization here on the UNCP campus whose purpose is to assist with academic development for students and to develop leadership programs to encourage high levels of student engagement. Though they target the entire student body, their focus is on incoming minorities to assist them to become acclimated to and integrated into UNCP, both academically and socially. This spring, they sponsored a day-long mentoring event for a group of 40 children (and their faculty) in grades 3-5 with hopes to stimulate or enhance their excitement about going to college. They toured various facilities across campus, with their last stop being the Clinical Learning Center (CLC). Students were able to ask questions about being a nurse and were given the opportunity to interact with our high-fidelity simulators and various models housed within the CLC. Their visit was interactive and exciting, and the kids really enjoyed their time here within the department of nursing. A special thanks to Dr. Tiffany Tyson for assisting the CLC staff in making this opportunity possible for this group of kids.



Student & Alumni News

Four Chosen for the VALOR Program



The Nursing VA Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program was initiated in 1990 and provides opportunities for students to develop competencies in clinical nursing while at an approved VA health care facility. Learning opportunities include didactic experiences, competency-based clinical practice with a qualified registered nurse (RN) and participation in nursing-focused clinical conferences. Students recruited for this program must have completed their final semester or quarter of the junior year in a nationally-accredited baccalaureate or generic equivalent nursing program.



Students may be appointed on a full or part-time basis during the summer between their junior and senior year and may continue during their senior academic year on a part-time basis. To be eligible for this program, students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3, complete a maximum of 400 hours in the summer as a nursing VALOR student, be a United States citizen and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry into the Nursing VALOR program.



Selection into this program is competitive, and the Department of Nursing is proud to report that four of our rising seniors were selected to participate in this program. Students selected for participation in this program include:

(Pictured top to bottom) - Jennie Beldon, Veronica Graham, Janet Dove, and Kassidy Burr



Pinning and Recognition Ceremony Ushers

Junior nursing students are selected by the nursing faculty to serve as greeters and/or ushers for the pinning and recognition ceremony each academic year. They are selected according to the following criteria: GPA 3.0 or higher, clinical performance and professional behavior.

Pre-licensure ushers for the May 2014 ceremony (pictured left to right) were: Sarah Smith, Elena Eller (Lead Usher) and Heather Scott.

RN-BSN ushers (picture unavailable) were Maranda Hammonds (Lead Usher) and Jennifer Jones.



Alumni News

Pre-licensure Graduates



◆ Megan Brister, Class of 2012, enrolled in East Carolina University's Certified Nurse Midwife program beginning Fall 2013



◆ Brittany Emmerich, Class of 2013, accepted into Ohio State's Master of Science in Nursing program—Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner—for Fall 2014

◆ Shannon Hall, Class of 2010, graduated from Georgetown University with her Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner (and passed the certification exam)—May 2014

◆ Garrett Straughn, Class of 2008, graduated from East Carolina University from the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) program, May 2014

RN-BSN Graduates



◆ Michelle Cox, Class of 2004, enrolled at Gardner-Webb University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program—Summer 2014



◆ Jasmine Locklear, Class of 2010, graduated from Chamberlain College of Nursing with Master of Science in Nursing Education—Summer 2014



Greg Greene Photography

We hope you have enjoyed reading about all of the wonderful and exciting accomplishments of the UNCP Department of Nursing. Please contact us with any questions and/or comments you may have. We would love to hear from you. If you are alumni, please drop in or send us a message letting us know where you are, what you are doing and any accomplishments you would like to share so we can include them in future newsletters!

Contact Us:

University of North Carolina at Pembroke
 Department of Nursing
 One University Drive
 P. O. Box 1510
 Pembroke, NC 28372
 910-521-6522
www.uncp.edu/nursing