



# NURSING NOTES

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Welcome to the Fall 2011 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, visit our website at [www.uncp.edu/nursing](http://www.uncp.edu/nursing).



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## Dates to Remember

2/18/11	Open House & Information Fair
4/13/11	Relay for Life
4/14/11	Open House & Information Fair
5/5/11	Pinning Ceremony
5/5/11	Spring Commencement

# Message from the Chair

Here it is, December 2011, a time to reflect on how the year has passed so quickly! I am pleased to share with you the Fall 2011 Department of Nursing e-Newsletter. Highlights of the Department of Nursing's activities since Spring 2011 are presented in this newsletter. Please enjoy the e-Newsletter and share it with your friends and family.

As you know, the Department of Nursing currently offers a traditional baccalaureate (BSN) program for pre-licensure students and the RN-BSN program for registered nurses who received entry-level education in community colleges or hospital diploma programs. We are pleased to share with you that 100% of the May 2011 pre-licensure graduates successfully passed the NCLEX-RN exam on their first attempt.

Members of the Department of Nursing faculty are talented and experienced educators in both the classroom and clinical settings. The faculty has designed a rigorous curriculum with innovative classroom, clinical and community experiences to prepare graduates to assume responsibility for improving health outcomes and promoting health of individual patients, their families and the community. We are committed to graduating compassionate, culturally competent, and skillful nursing professionals who will excel in the ever-changing 21st century healthcare environment and positively contribute to the future of our profession.

We are excited about all the activities occurring in the Department of Nursing as we continue to grow and change. In the spring of 2012, we will be moving into the new three-story 87,000-square-foot Health Sciences Building on the campus of UNC-Pembroke. The new building will house faculty offices, classrooms, seminar rooms, a computer lab, wireless internet throughout the building, multimedia technology including high-definition video, classroom-capture software, and teleconferencing equipment, a Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) which will provide comprehensive academic and social support services for all nursing majors, and a Simulation Learning Center (SLC) which will house six labs allowing students to work with state-of-the-art patient simulators for practicing patient care skills.

In addition to the opening of the new building, we are currently in the planning stages for a Master's degree in nursing (MSN) program. This initiative reflects our commitment to improving the health of individuals, families, and communities through advancing the education of nurses to provide the highest quality of nursing care.

As always, I would like to thank our alumni, donors, faculty, and staff for their support of the Department of Nursing. Without you, the work of the Department would not be possible. We would like to hear about what you are doing personally and professionally. Feel free to email either Donna Cutrell ([donna.cutrell@uncp.edu](mailto:donna.cutrell@uncp.edu)) or Martha Hepler ([martha.hepler@uncp.edu](mailto:martha.hepler@uncp.edu)) with any information you would like to share.

I wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a blessed 2012.

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



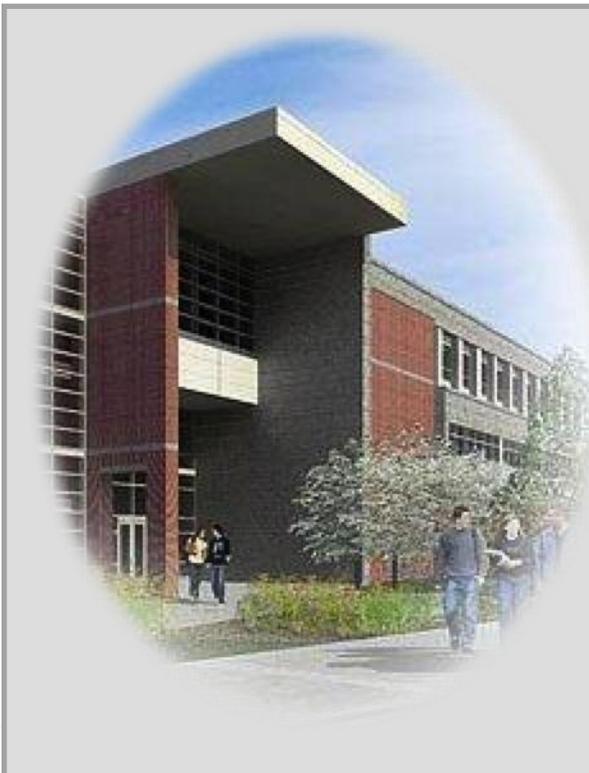
# 100% NCLEX-RN Passing Rate for May 2011 Nursing Graduates

It is with great pleasure to report that all 19 of UNC Pembroke's May 2011 nursing graduates passed the national nursing license exam (NCLEX-RN) on the first attempt. UNCP's first-time pass rates have increased every year since graduating its first pre-licensure class in 2007. UNCP's scores were the highest among all 17 UNC-system universities during 2011.

As stated in the [UNCP Newswire](http://www.uncp.edu/news/2011/nursing_passing_rates.htm), UNCP provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Kenneth Kitts, said, "These scores reflect the quality of our nursing program," and "I am very proud of the faculty, staff and students for the hard work and dedication that made this happen." Click [http://www.uncp.edu/news/2011/nursing\\_passing\\_rates.htm](http://www.uncp.edu/news/2011/nursing_passing_rates.htm) to read the full article from the UNCP Newswire.

The Department of Nursing is extremely proud of this accomplishment. Nursing faculty are committed to providing quality instruction and promoting a strong foundation for professional nursing practice.

Though some may say there is nowhere to go after achieving a 100% pass rate, the department of nursing would disagree and is determined to maintain this high level of achievement. As Dr. Barbara Synowiez stated in her welcoming message, "We are committed to graduating compassionate, culturally competent, and skillful nursing professionals who will excel in the ever-changing 21st century healthcare environment and positively contribute to the future of our profession."



## Health Sciences Building Update

The Department of Nursing is excited about moving into the new 3-story, 87,000 -square-foot Health Sciences Building sometime during the spring of 2012. The building will house faculty offices, classrooms, a computer lab, the Learning Enhancement Center, and the Simulation Learning Center. The building will be loaded with cutting edge technology to enhance the teaching-learning experiences in both the clinical and laboratory settings. The building will be located on the UNC campus in Pembroke.

## Seven Graduate with Their BSN

The American Nurses Association (ANA) considers the standards of professional nursing practice to include acquiring and maintaining current knowledge in nursing practice. On Thursday, December 8, 2011, several individuals were recognized for their commitment to lifelong learning and professional nursing. Dr. Cherry Beasley, coordinator of the RN to BSN program, recognized seven nurses who successfully fulfilled all requirements for UNC-Pembroke's RN to BSN program. Dr. Beasley recognized each graduate and allowed them each an opportunity to introduce themselves and those who supported their successful journey through the program. Dr. Beasley presented each graduate with a rose and the UNC-Pembroke Nursing pin as a symbol of their success and commitment to professional nursing.



Left to right: Chasity Wilson, Sirese Hetrick, Pam Alexander, Michelle Oxendine, Doris Jones, Alisa Freeman, Ashley Hunt-Seals

# Faculty News

## Stanley Recognized for Nursing Excellence



"The Great 100 Nurses in North Carolina" is a grass roots organization whose mission is: "to positively impact the image of Nursing by recognizing Nursing Excellence and providing scholarships for Nursing Education in North Carolina."

Each year, 100 nurses from all areas of nursing practice settings in North Carolina are recognized for Nursing Excellence.

The Department of Nursing is proud to report that one of it's own, Joyce Stanley, RN, MSN, was one of those named to the "Great 100" for 2011. Mrs. Stanley received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Clemson University and her Master of Science (MSN) in Emergency and Critical Care Nursing from George Mason University. She serves as both the Adult Health Division Coordinator and Military Advisor for the Department of Nursing. She has assumed the position of Chair for a departmental committee whose goal is to design a Mentorship program for new nursing faculty. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctorate in Education (EdD) from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mrs. Stanley was formally recognized for this honor in October at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great 100 Gala held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.

For more information, visit the website:

<http://www.great100.org/index.asp>

## Dr. Beasley Receives Grant Funding



Continuing with her work in American Indian and minority health, Dr. Beasley is a member of two different research teams that have submitted research and demonstration projects to granting sources. Working with the Lumbee Tribe to submit their

first health grant, the project "Lumbee: Developing a Community Model for Improving Health" was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Secondly, working with a team of UNCP and UNC faculty a grant submitted last fall has been funded. The "Center for Diabetes Translation Research to Reduce Disparities (CDTR) Pilot and Feasibility Program", funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH), will strive to develop culturally appropriate models to preventing diabetes and also developing junior researchers.

Dr. Beasley also presented at the fifth annual American Women of Proud Nations conference presenting some of her beginning biographic research regarding the lives of eight Lumbee women. This research is continuing with a view of publishing at a later date.

Lastly, Dr. Beasley has been appointed to the North Carolina Future of Nursing taskforce. This taskforce is charged with implementing the IOM Future of Nursing recommendations in North Carolina. In addition to serving on this oversight taskforce, Dr. Beasley has been appointed to serve on the subcommittee charged with developing and implementing plans to achieve the goal of "80% of nurses holding an earned BSN by 2020."

# Faculty News

## Dr. Evans Publishes Article



Assistant Professor, Dena Evans, EdD, MPH, BSN, RN, CNE has been quite busy. In November, she traveled to Charleston, SC, to attend the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) conference entitled “Enhancing Quality and Safety in Nursing Education: Preparing Nurse Faculty to Lead Curricular

Change.”

Dr. Evans and Tony Curtis have had an article published in the November 2011 issue of *The Journal of Nursing Education* entitled “Animosity, antagonism and avatars: teaching conflict management in Second Life.” Dr. Evans has a second article under review by the *Journal of Professional Nursing* entitled “Noncognitive variables associated with the intention of minority Baccalaureate nursing students to complete their program of study.”

In addition to publishing articles, Dr. Evans has completed her first semester of the Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner program at UNC - Greensboro.



## Trueman to Publish

Assistant Professor, Dr. Peg Trueman, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, has contracted with F. A. Davis Company to produce a textbook entitled, “*Case Study Approach for the Fundamentals of Nursing*”. She anticipates the text to be published in November of 2012.

Dr. Trueman currently teaches Adult Health I, Adult Health II and Health Assessment.

## Johnson Pursues Degree



Assistant Professor, Jennifer Johnson, RN, MSN, WHNP-BC, is currently pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of Alabama. Johnson began the program during Summer 2011 and anticipates completing the program in August 2013. Johnson serves as the Family and Community Health Division Coordinator for the Department of Nursing.

# Junior Reflections

UNCP nursing students love to reflect on what they have accomplished throughout the curriculum. The BSN class of 2013 has had very busy yet fun-filled summer and fall semesters. During summer session, students fulfilled requirements for Introduction to Professional Nursing (N3010) and Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice (N3030). The fun continued as they finished the fall semester meeting all requirements for Transcultural Nursing (N3100), Normal and Therapeutic Nutrition (N3040), Pharmacology for Clinical Practice (N3050), Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (N3200) and Adult Health Nursing I (N3150).



## Math-a-palooza

The Learning Enhancement Center (LEC), coordinated by Dr. Dena Evans, sponsored the second annual Math-a-palooza in October. More than 15 junior nursing students participated in the annual competition that challenges students to perform dosage calculations of increasing difficulty. Mr. B. Lance Davis was this year's winner, receiving a Wal-Mart gift card. All participants received "I Survived Math-a-palooza" t-shirts. Pictured above, student Courtney Sykes poses with the "Reaper" during the event. Dr. Evans sends a special "thank you" to Mrs. Jennifer Johnson for playing the part.



Amanda McClelland feeding Regina Ortiz



Kristen Bowen receiving foot care from Tony Neal

# Junior Reflections



During the Transcultural Nursing course, students presented information specific to a “cultural group” to promote awareness and strategies for delivering culturally competent nursing care. In addition to dressing the part, some groups included cultural foods as part of their demonstration.

**Top:** Hannah Johnson and Ryan Floyd presented information about the Amish.

**Bottom:** Regina Ortiz was part of the group who presented the Hindus culture.

# Senior Reflections



The BSN class of 2012 has been extremely busy. During fall semester, seniors met all requirements for Nursing Research and Theory (N4000), Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (N4150) and Community Health Nursing (N4350). During Community Health Nursing (N4350), students attended Board of Health meetings and toured water treatment facilities. Students participated in service learning projects throughout Columbus, Robeson, and Hoke counties as part of their clinical rotation. The

students began work in August by completing comprehensive community assessments of their assigned geographical regions. Student studied two vulnerable population groups that included substance abusers and pregnant women. Through work on the projects, students collaborated with community agencies and learned how to collect data from key informants. Each group carried out a population focused, community level intervention as part of their project. Examples of group projects included creating a webpage for pregnant teenagers for use by the health department, sending letters to all health care providers encouraging enrollment in a prescription monitoring system, a sticky note campaign, community health education and screenings, and others. The students also learned about political advocacy and developed a letter that was sent to state legislators on behalf of the aggregate group of focus. Student groups prepared seminar presentations and shared their work with classmates and faculty on November 28, 2011. The students were assisted with work on their projects during the course by the faculty Jennifer Johnson, Joyce



Beard, and Martha Hepler.

Front row: Sentralia Tabor, Hannah Piver, Jennifer Joyce;  
Back Row: Ronnie Strickland, Allison Locklear, Kris Clegg, Faith-Marie Hasz

# Senior Reflections

This group focused on pregnant women in Robeson County and designed a pamphlet for parents to assist them with talking with teens about sexual issues in an effort to decrease the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Pamphlets were distributed to residents at Wal-Mart in Lumberton. They also submitted a letter to legislators advocating for programs that would assist parents to discuss the topic with teens.



**Top:** Megan Brister and Amy Ewald

**Bottom:** Nicole Jackson and Michelle Noell

# Senior Reflections



**Community Health Rotation:  
Sentralia Tabor and Faith-Marie Hasz**



**Research Presentations:  
Jamie Martinez and Michelle Noell**

## Hasz Receives Scholarship



The Great 100, Inc. includes a scholarship program to support registered nurse education as a component of its mission.

Scholarships are distributed on a rotational selection from schools throughout North Carolina from the ADN/Diploma, BSN, MSN as well as the PhD and DNP level.

Each school selects the recipient with the belief that the school will know which student is the most deserving of the scholarship.

Faith-Marie Hasz was the recipient from UNC-Pembroke for 2011. Faith-Marie plans to graduate from the BSN program in May 2012.

# Association of Nursing Students

## Message from the ANS President

As the ANS president I would like to continue to uphold the ANS's purpose, which is to promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities geared toward improving healthcare and related social issues and to continue to focus on community service with an emphasis on promoting nursing as a profession. By doing so, we will continue to represent UNCP and the profession of nursing well.

The 2011-2012 ANS year started out with a newly elected board with Marvette Myers as Vice President; Molly Stutts as Secretary; Brittany Greaves as Treasurer; Will Buffalo as Breakthrough to Nursing Director; Jamie Martinez as Senior Executive; and Anthony Hailey as Junior Executive. I am grateful for each member volunteering to maintain the organization and its goals.

I would like to thank everyone for the outstanding participation in the Fall 2011 semester activities and the enthusiasm for the planned activities that has contributed to their success. In specific was the Campus Challenge with Carolina Donor Services. Not only did we learn what being a registrant involves, but also we were able to reach, educate, and motivate those who have not considered being a donor. There were 181 registrants that ANS signed up, which means that there is a possibility of 1,448 lives being saved because of our efforts. We did an awesome job! Just recently the Angel Tree was taken on by ANS. Molly Stutts coordinated with Robeson County Health Department to sponsor 4 needy children for Christmas. Fundraising efforts yielded \$480.00, which allowed ANS to purchase clothes, sweaters/coats, learning/developmental toys, books, and a bike. A great big thank you to the generosity of the UNCP nursing faculty, staff and students!

I encourage everyone to become involved in the ANS by bringing forward ideas and enthusiasm to the meetings and events in order to further strengthen the ANS organization. Everyone is welcome and I look forward to getting to know everyone in the upcoming semester.

Wishing you a successful spring semester!

Respectfully,

Joyce Kiermayr

President, UNCP-ANS



# Association of Nursing Students

## Organ Donation Drive

The ANS hosted an organ donation drive at the UNC-Pembroke University Center on November 11, 2011. In collaboration with Taylor Anderson from the Carolina Donor Service, the ANS was able to assist approximately 181 people to register with Carolina Donor Services for organ donation. Ms. Anderson rewarded the students for their effort by means of a pizza party after completion of final exams. For more information regarding Carolina Donor Services and organ donation, visit the organization's website at [www.carolinadonorservices.org](http://www.carolinadonorservices.org).



Front row, left to right: Marvette Myers, Amy Ewald, Jamie Martinez, Michelle Noell, Ms. Deborah Groves  
Back row, left to right: Joyce Kiermayr, Anthony Neal, Anthony Hailey (Not everyone who participated is pictured here.)

# Association of Nursing Students



## Tis' the Season!

Caring is the heart of nursing, and the heart of nursing was demonstrated when the ANS and nursing faculty joined forces to fulfill the Christmas wishes of four disadvantaged children in Robeson county. Students, faculty and the ANS donated nearly \$500 to purchase a variety of gifts for children who participated in the Angel Tree program sponsored by the Nurse Family Partnership program at Robeson County Health Department.



**Senior nursing students wrapping gifts:**

**Top left: Jamie Martinez**

**Bottom left: Megan Brister**

**Right: Yvonne Shakir**

Nursing Faculty has been planning for the 2012 UNCP Relay for Life Campaign to be held on the UNCP campus on Friday, April 13, 2012. Last year, the faculty team raised just over \$3,000; thus, this year our goal is to raise \$3,000 for the fight against cancer. Please consider joining our team, making a donation or both to help us reach our goal. For every \$10 donated, your name will be entered to win a hand-made juniper strip canoe, an estimated value of \$2,500. Donations can be made directly online by clicking on the link below. An email will be sent to alert the captain of the Faculty team that a donation has been made so your name can be entered for the drawing. The drawing will occur at the conclusion of the event. Thank you for your support of such a wonderful cause. Make donations by clicking here.

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY12SA?team\\_id=1054058&pg=team&fr\\_id=41389](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY12SA?team_id=1054058&pg=team&fr_id=41389)



## Happy Holidays!



**Front:** Jennifer Johnson, Joyce Stanley, Michelle Rupard, Barbara Synowiez

**Middle:** Dena Evans, Cherry Beasley, Brenda McPherson, Donna Cutrell, Deborah Groves, Tiffany Dalmide, Rebecca Davis, Julie Layne, Rebecca Roberts, Joyce Beard, Martha Hepler

**Back:** Thelma Floyd