



Nursing Notes - Summer 2017

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Letter from the Chair

Every semester, the Department of Nursing releases a new edition of Nursing Notes. It is through this newsletter that I have the opportunity to share the exciting activities and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. I hope you enjoy this newest format of our newsletter using the Sway platform. It should make the experience more interactive and user-friendly.

In May of this year, we had 38 undergraduate students (pre-licensure and RN-BSN) graduate with their BSN. Our pre-licensure BSN graduates have been busy preparing for and taking the NCLEX-RN examination. Many of them have secured employment offers in our local area, across the state, and around the country. We wish all of these graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors. I am also pleased to announce that we graduated two students through our Masters of Science in Nursing program. We are very excited to see where they go from here. You will have the opportunity to learn more about one of our MSN graduates and the activities of our undergraduate students in this edition of the newsletter.

Our nursing faculty are experts in nursing education, dedicated teachers, and have years of clinical practice experience to share with students. Together, we are embracing and developing further expertise in cutting-edge teaching strategies, including the use of simulation throughout our curriculum. In this issue, you will see that two of our faculty have announced their retirement. We wish these individuals the best of luck. Our search to fill their positions has begun and we look forward to announcing the newest additions to our team in the next newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank our donors, alumni, community partners, and friends for their support of the Department of Nursing. To our alumni, I encourage you to share your story with us and let us know of your personal and professional accomplishments and achievements. Whether you are an alumni, student, faculty, staff, or friend, you are the key to our success in the Department of Nursing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer W. Twaddell

Spring Pinning and Commencement

In May, the Department of Nursing had 38 undergraduate students and two graduate students graduate. We wish these graduates the best of luck and we look forward to seeing what their future holds!

The Department of Nursing would like to thank the undergraduate cohort for their generous donation to the Dr. Barbara B. Synowiez Annual Student Scholarship Award and to the graduate cohort for their

¹<https://www.facebook.com/UNCPNursing/>

donation of a rocking chair. The rocking chair symbolizes the hard work and dedication toward "rocking it out" in the program.

Please enjoy the slideshow below from the 2017 Pinning and Commencement Ceremonies!



1 - Students embrace following their pinning ceremony.





2 - Destiny Kocurek presents the undergraduate gift to Dr. Barbara Synowicz.











RIBN Graduates Its First Cohort and Expands



The Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) Program at UNCP began in 2014 and offers a four-year pathway to earn both an associate and bachelor's degree. Students in the RIBN Program spend three years at a partner community college working toward their Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. After the third year, students enroll at UNC Pembroke to complete their BSN or have the option to enter the RN-MSN Program.

This past spring, the first students in the program graduated from Sandhills Community College with their Associate Degree in Nursing. This fall, the students will enroll at UNC Pembroke for their final year in the RIBN Program and will earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in Spring 2018. Congratulations!

In the spring of 2017, the RIBN Program expanded to include Bladen Community College. Bladen Community College will accept its first RIBN cohort in fall 2018. The RIBN Program now includes Bladen, Richmond, Robeson, and Sandhills Community Colleges.



Dr. Cherry Beasley receives 2017 Award for Excellence in Teaching

Originally published by UNCP on May 3. Written by Mark Locklear, University Communications and Marketing.

For nursing professor Cherry Beasley, it isn't the way she delivers lectures at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Her students' success hinges on them having the tools to be great learners.

"Lots of times we forget that students have to be taught a lot of things related to how to be a learner," said Dr. Beasley, the Belk Endowed Professor in Rural and Minority Health.

"The content in my discipline, and in all disciplines, is going to be outdated in five years. But I can teach you how to learn and how to be curious," she said.

"One of my biggest struggles is how do I help whet the appetite of the student to want to be motivated. If I can teach them to think and be willing to be a learner, and be enthusiastic, they can master any content."

For 25 years, Beasley has mastered her craft. She is responsible for a generation of outstanding UNCP nursing graduates. She has been honored with the 2017 *Award for Excellence in Teaching*. *The UNC Board of Governors presents the award each year to one faculty member from each of the 17 universities. Recipients receive a \$12,500 stipend and a bronze medallion.*

"It is quite an honor," Beasley said. "I don't think there is anything more satisfying than your colleagues recognizing that you are doing a good job at what you are striving to do."

“For me, being a teacher is the quintessential role in my life. I have been a nurse. I have practiced, but being a college professor, you get to put it all together.”

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings described Beasley as a leader in all aspects of her profession: teaching, research and service.

“Her passion for students, the field of nursing and our region is inspiring,” Cummings said. “A genuine desire to serve others is an essential attribute for nurses and educators, and UNCP students could have no better role model than Dr. Beasley.”

Dr. Beasley has devoted her professional nursing career as a nursing provider, educator, and researcher.

She began carving her professional path as a student at Red Springs High School. She spent a lot of time observing the care her grandmother received after she was diagnosed with cancer. The intimate relationship between the nurse and the client is what attracted a young Beasley to the field.

She began reading and studying the various levels of patient care. The more she studied, the more she was assured she was on the right path. She received her nursing degree from the University of Michigan and landed her first job at the Santa Ana Psychiatric Center in California.

Beasley went on to receive a master’s in Nursing and Public Health Nursing from UNC Chapel Hill, a post master’s Family Nursing Practitioner from the University of South Carolina, and Ph.D. from East Carolina University.

Dr. Beasley is the first Lumbee to have earned a baccalaureate, masters, and doctor of philosophy all in nursing. Her areas of expertise are cultural roles in health care decision making, rural health, diabetes, nursing workforce issues, and women’s health.

She taught at North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

While in Tennessee, she joined the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corp. She served eight years, rising to the rank of major. She held positions as a school nurse with the Robeson County Health Department and served a principal investigator for the Office of Minority Health.

When UNC Pembroke’s nursing program (a BSN program for registered nurses) began in 1992, Beasley was the first nursing faculty member hired.

“I initially thought I would stay about four or five years, but I am still here,” Beasley said. “The fact that I have stayed so long speaks to the idea that I was able to continue to grow and to be challenged.”

Her teaching style depends on the content and the development level of the student. Interacting with students during lectures is key, as is ample time for reflective thinking. Though she is an expert in the field, Beasley continues to develop innovative ways to present the content in a way that has enticement.

Dr. Beasley has written and administered many grants and is the author of numerous articles. Her research and practices have been focused on Lumbee health issues including child development and breast cancer. She is a member and leader in numerous nursing organizations, including the American Nurses Association, the North Carolina Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, the National League for Nursing, and Delta Omega.

She is the past chair of the N.C. Center for Nursing. Her book, “American Indian Women of Proud Nations: Essay on History, Language, and Education,” which was co-authored with her colleagues Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs and Ulrike Wiethau, was published in the Critical Indigenous and American Indian Studies book series.

Beasley has a rich history of family members who graduated from UNCP, including her mother, Joyce B. Maynor, who holds two degrees, her father and step-mother, Drs. Waltz and Louise Maynor, and grandfather, Wayne Maynor.

At UNCP, Beasley says she feels a sense of community. As she strolls across campus her mind reverts to childhood, when parts of the campus were fields where she cropped tobacco.

“I can walk across campus and I have a sense of those men who founded this campus,” she said.

“I am proud to help continue with that vision. I get to play a role in that building of community and the mission this place has. My faculty colleagues here are excellent. They get the mission.

“This is the fourth university that I have served as a faculty member and I have never seen the quality of teaching at any place that I see at UNC Pembroke.”



In-Flight Emergency Sparks Interest

Graduate student Kerstin Hudgins, on a return flight from a critical care conference, managed the care of a passenger experiencing coronary syndrome. After that experience, Ms. Hudgins learned more about in-flight passenger medical emergencies and chose to do her master’s project on the subject. Specifically, she learned that such emergencies are frequent and the flight crew relies on traveling providers to aide other passengers having the emergency. She further learned that providers are hesitant to volunteer though they are legally covered and would not hesitate to volunteer if on the ground.

For the well-being of passengers on planes, Ms. Hudgins plans to educate registered nurses about common in-flight emergencies, resources on the plane, and backup resources on the ground. She states, “If RNs had knowledge about how to manage emergencies and the resources available in-flight, the nurses might volunteer to help fellow passengers.”

Ms. Hudgins presented this information to UNCP faculty and students on April 11, 2017, and plans other presentations at conferences throughout North Carolina. Ms. Hudgins graduated from UNCP's Master of Science in Nursing program in May 2017.



3 - Ms. Kerstin Hudgins

Student Update - Shana Nixon, Class of 2011

I graduated in 2011 from UNCP's BSN Program and immediately started a career in emergency nursing. I originally wanted to begin in Labor and Delivery or Neonatal Intensive Care - who doesn't want to work with birthing mothers and babies! I quickly realized that most new nurses want to go into those areas. Many people were telling me that every nurse has to go through Med/Surg in order to become a good nurse. I wanted to go to an area that would teach me how to think on my feet. I am so glad that the opportunity to go into emergency nursing came to me! I've been an emergency room nurse for the past six years and I love it! In 2014, I moved to South Korea and I currently work as the charge nurse for a small emergency room in a combat support hospital. What makes this opportunity unique is that we have no paramedics. Therefore, all 911 calls come to us! So I throw on my jacket, jump in the ambulance, and I go get my patient! I also transport patients to different facilities if they require a higher level of care. My job is fun, exciting, and I never feel bored!



4 - Shana Nixon, Class of 2011

Student Announcements

- UNCP's Association of Nursing Students (ANS) was involved in a bone marrow drive. Additionally, ANS students held a Penny Wars fundraiser, a Maid for a Day fundraiser, and a bake sale to raise money for the Dr. Barbara Synowiez Annual Scholarship Fund. You can find a video below of the faculty who were "pied" as the losing team in the Penny Wars fundraiser.
- Jennifer Stuber, Linda Tew, and Anna Bryan (MSN Nurse Educator students) presented at the STEMville event sponsored by the Morehead Planetarium on March 17. They volunteered and were accepted into the IMPACT program. Future activities are planned for the fall as part of this relationship.
- Senior nursing students assisted with two community health fairs in March in Lake Waccamaw and Lumberton. It was sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing and partnered with local healthcare providers to offer free community health screenings and chronic disease self-management support. Pictured below are students assisting with blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

- Elizabeth Crawford has published her Honors College Senior Project in the peer-reviewed Alpha Chi Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship². The title of her article is *Examining the Consumer's Perspective of Advocacy*. Dr. Jennifer Johnson served as Crawford's mentor throughout the project.
- In late March, senior nursing students celebrated their time together with a luncheon. Special guests attended to provide words of encouragement as these students prepare for their upcoming NCLEX exams and future employment as nurses!



<https://youtu.be/qzOIANjwQ3Y>

5 - UNCP Department of Nursing faculty getting pied in the face for losing the Penny Wars fundraiser held by ANS.

²<https://www.alphachihonor.org/index.cfm/publications/aletheia/>



6 - Students at a health fair held on campus.



7 - Students at the senior luncheon!



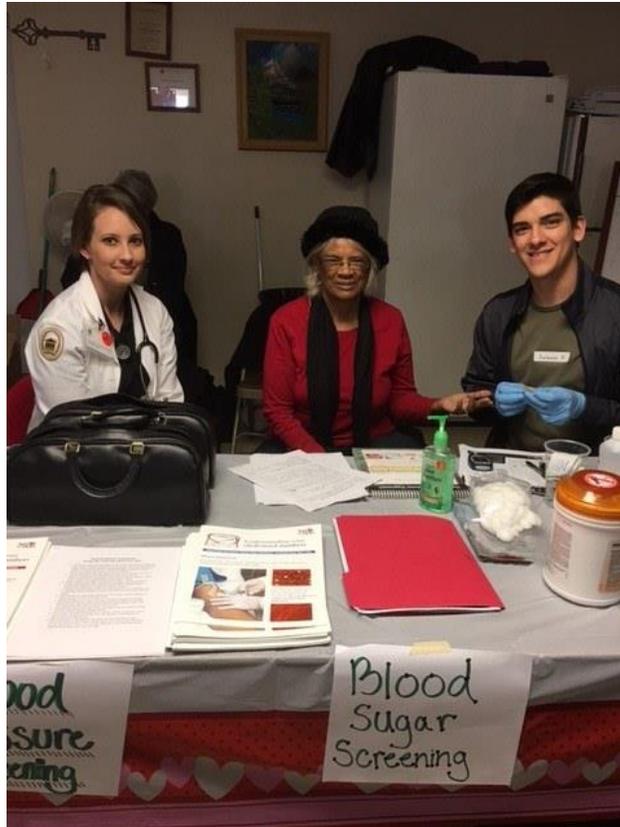
8 - Students at a health fair held on campus.



9 - Students at a health fair held on campus.



10 - Ms. Elizabeth Crawford and Dr. Jennifer Johnson.



11 - Jennifer Evans at the community health clinic in Lake Waccamaw.



12 - Students perform health assessments at a community health clinic.



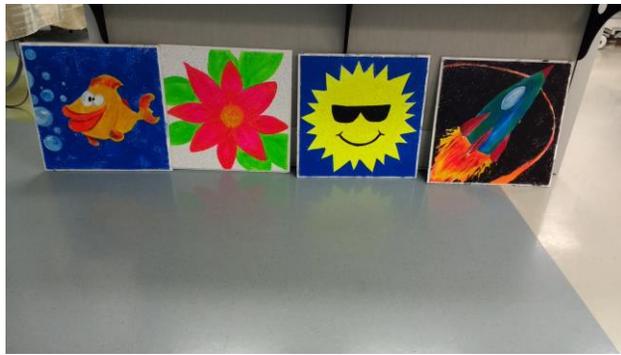
13 - Nursing students assisting with a health clinic in Lumberton.



14 - Destiny Kocurek prepares plates of whipped cream to be used for pieing the faculty!

Partnership with Art Students Leads to Colorful Ceilings

We would like to give a big shout out to the following students from the Art Department: Diane Poland, Amy Ruiz, and Nicole Bell. Thanks to these students for painting our ceiling tiles for the Pediatric Simulation Lab. This provides the lab with a true pediatric feel! Thank you so much. We really appreciate your contribution.



Nursing Students Display Educational Posters



Originally published in *The Pine Needle*. Written by Jessica Horne.

Nursing students displayed their poster boards in the Weinstein Health Sciences Building on Thursday, February 23, as a part of their course requirements. Misty Stone, Clinical Assistant Professor, said, "This is our junior nursing class...the course is Family Nursing I, where we focus on maternity patients and newborns." She said that this project would help students attain the clinical hours necessary for this term.

Fifty-one students participated in these group project presentations, with subjects ranging from sexually transmitted infections (STI's) to newborn vaccinations, according to Stone.

Students stood at their stations equipped with videos, visual aids, and even sweet treats, eager to share information with precision and competence. The viewing of these projects was open to anyone who might pass through, as well as students and staff within the department. Because of this, many had the opportunity to be educated on the basics of maternal care, STI prevention, and other health issues.

Stone said that this was a new experience for students, one that strayed from the usual written paper assignment. These projects gave nursing students the opportunity to research, work with peers, and inform others on wellness issues. These skills will help develop them into competent nursing professionals in the years to come.



Faculty and Staff Announcements

- Dr. Jennifer Johnson was awarded the 2017 UNCP Outstanding Teaching Award. This award is presented to outstanding faculty who demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to professional growth, are effective through clear course materials and varied instructional methods, and display skill in engaging student interest.
- Dr. Julie Harrison-Swartz served as Nurse of the Day through the North Carolina Nurses Association at the N.C. General Assembly on March 30 and May 24.
- Ms. Kathy Locklear and Mr. James Crouch were invited to serve on the Bladen Community College Curriculum Advisory Board.

- Ms. Melonie Moody will begin a Ph.D. program in Nursing Education through UNCG this fall.
- Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Ms. Melonie Moody, and Mr. John Toth participated in the 1st Annual UNCP Research and Creativity Showcase to display their poster: *Utilizing Electronic Health Records and Simulation to Enhance Understanding of Nursing Practice and Clinical Decision Making Skills*.
- Ms. Anna Bryan and Ms. Melonie Moody participated in the 'Morehead Planetarium IMPACTS Program: STEMville' where local middle school students rotated through various STEM interactive sessions. Rotations by Ms. Moody were "Don't Get Caught Dirty Handed" and rotations by Ms. Bryan were "CSI: Investigations of the Body."
- Dr. Emerald Bilbrew received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in May from Regis University.
- Ms. Mary Baynes was voted onto the Staff Council for a two-year term. The Staff Council provides open communication among employees and university administration regarding mutual interests and concerns. The Council strives to create a positive, respectful workplace with opportunities for professional and personal growth, while also serving at the behest of and in an advisory capacity to the chancellor.
- Mr. James Crouch was appointed as the Health Sciences Events Lieutenant for NC HOSA for a three-year term. NC HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science education and biomedical science programs or have interests in pursuing careers in health professions.



15 - Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. John Toth, and Ms. Melonie Moody present their research.



16 - Ms. Anna Bryan and Ms. Melonie Moody participate in the STEMville event.



17 - Dr. Emerald Bilbrew and her husband at her DNP graduation.

Promotions and Retirements

The Department of Nursing is proud to announce the following:

- Dr. Jennifer Twaddell has been appointed Chair of the Department of Nursing effective June 1, 2017. Dr. Twaddell has been with the university since 2004 and has been serving as interim

chair since June 2016. Previously, Dr. Twaddell served as the Director of Graduate Programs and Coordinator of the SouthCentral RIBN Collaborative.

- Dr. Julie Harrison-Swartz has been appointed Director of Graduate Programs within the Department of Nursing effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Harrison-Swartz has been with the department since fall 2016.

The Department of Nursing wishes the best to the following:

- In May 2017, Dr. Connie Mullinix retired from the university. She served the Department of Nursing as an associate professor and facilitated the development of continuing education.
- Effective June 30, 2017, Ms. Joyce Beard will retire from the university. She has served the Department of Nursing since 2008 as an assistant professor. Ms. Beard has previously served as the coordinator for the Association of Nursing Students and contributed to the continued success of the department.
- In May 2017, Mr. Andy Burns graduated from UNCP with his Master of Arts in English Education. Mr. Burns worked as a graduate assistant within the department since 2015. He plans to work in the United Arab States as an English as a Second Language instructor.



18 - Dr. Jennifer Twaddell



19 - Dr. Julie Harrison-Swartz



20 - Dr. Connie Mullinix



21 - Ms. Joyce Beard