



NURSING NOTES

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Volume I

November 22, 2005

No. 1



It is my pleasure to welcome each of you to the first issue of **Nursing Notes**, an E-Newsletter for alumni, friends and family of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Nursing. Through this e-newsletter we will provide you with the latest news about the Department of Nursing, our faculty, students, alumni, and other issues and

resources you may find helpful.

The faculty and I hope you find **Nursing Notes** easy to access and informative! We plan to publish the newsletter twice a year, and welcome your feedback on it. We also invite you to submit ideas for news that you would like to see included.

The Department of Nursing is a center of activity as you will see in this e-newsletter. Without a doubt, this is a time of growth and change for us! Our theme for 2005-2006 is "Moving Forward for Continued Greatness"; thus, continuing our focus on program quality and student outcomes. To us, program quality is not just an academic exercise but a commitment to public health and safety through the preparation of skilled nurse clinicians and leaders for the nursing profession.

We are rapidly growing but you can be certain that we will continue our commitment to quality professional nursing education as we move ahead. We appreciate the support you have provided the Department of Nursing in the past. I urge you to continue your support and join us on our journey as we do our part to meet the need for professional nurses in North Carolina.

Barbara B. Synowiez, PhD, RN
Interim Chair and BSN Coordinator
Associate Professor

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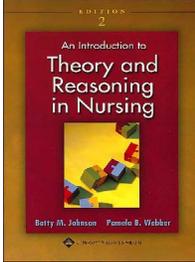
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NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING RECEIVES CCNE ACCREDITATION

On April 15, 2005, The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) granted the baccalaureate degree program in nursing at UNCP accreditation for a term of 10 years, extending to June 30, 2015. CCNE accreditation is the “gold standard” for baccalaureate and higher degree nursing education programs in the United States.



In the letter received May 6, 2005, CCNE Director Dr. Jennifer Butlin offered congratulations on behalf of her board for a clean report. “The board determined that there are no compliance concerns or areas for improvement with respect to key elements,” Dr. Butlin said. “The commissioners join me in expressing our best wishes as you proceed with the tasks important to the future of your nursing program.”

In preparation for the visit, the faculty engaged in an extensive self-study that examined all aspects of our mission, goals and curricula. This accreditation would not have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of the faculty and staff. In addition, the Department of Nursing received significant and greatly appreciated support from students, alumni, and community partners during the site visit. Dr. Betty Johnson, a leader in nursing education and Department of Nursing CCNE Consultant, provided valuable assistance and support throughout the accreditation process.

In July 2005, Dr. Johnson joined us to celebrate our achievement. It was a great time to pause and reflect on our accomplishments during 2004-2005. While visiting us, on one of two annual campus visits, Dr. Johnson toured classrooms and simulation labs, visited with prelicensure BSN students, and discussed with them some of the information found in her book on nurse theorists, *An Introduction to Theory and Reasoning in Nursing*, published by Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins.

SPRING 2005 INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL NURSING CEREMONY

The UNCP Department of Nursing honored spring graduates during the annual “Introduction to Professional Nursing” Ceremony on May 5, 2005 in the University Center Lounge on the campus of UNCP. Eight RN-BSN candidates received their nursing pin and congratulations from Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Interim Chair of the Department of Nursing and Department of Nursing faculty, marking the end of their BSN completion program at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the beginning of a new and exciting state in their nursing career; that of commitment to professional nursing.

Guest speakers for the ceremony included Ms. Jodella Locklear, FNP, a 1999 graduate of the RN-BSN completion program, and Dr. Peggy Opitz, Retired Department of Nursing Chair. Both speakers challenged the graduates to always strive for excellence and to continue their quest for lifelong learning. Ms. Gail Davis, Vice President of Patient Care Services at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, presented each graduate with a long-stem red rose.

Members of the spring 2005 graduating class Tomika Nicole Burks, Amy Lang Hinson, Magenta Renata Locklear, Gail Cooper Lowery, Carolyn Pierce Morgan, Eva Marie Sliter, Linda Lorraine Tew, and Kelly Wilkins.

OUR NURSING EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

We are excited about all the activities occurring in the Department of Nursing as we continue to grow and change. Please take a closer look at our RN-BSN and Prelicensure BSN options.

We are proud of our educational program for registered nurses seeking completion of a baccalaureate degree. The RN-BSN option, currently in its 13th year, continues to grow and thrive. Currently there are 58 RNs enrolled in the nursing curriculum; many other ADN and Diploma graduates are completing prerequisites so that soon they will be able to begin the nursing curriculum on either of our 4 campuses.

Students may enroll in the RN-BSN track offered on the main campus in Pembroke either fall or spring semesters and on a full- or part-time basis. We also offer the RN-BSN track at Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines, Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, and Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville for those students interested in part-time studies. Nursing faculty have created several innovative, interactive web-based as well as web-enhanced courses and continue to increase the amount of web-based learning in all courses within the RN-BSN curriculum.

In the fall of 2004, the University cleared final hurdles for a four-year, prelicensure BSN program. On Friday, September 9, 2004 the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina System approved the UNCP request to establish a 4-year, Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Following the Board of Governors meeting, on Thursday, September 23, 2004 the North Carolina Board of Nursing granted initial approval for the new pre-licensure BSN program.

The prelicensure BSN option is an upper division major; this means that students complete all University prerequisites and Department of Nursing support courses before being admitted to the nursing curriculum. Our first class of 50 pre-licensure BSN students was admitted in July 2005, this will make our first graduating group the Class of 2007. It is an exciting time for our students as they have completed their first semester and are mid-way through their second semester. They are working hard and are starting to see some light bulbs go off!! It is always inspiring to see new knowledge in action!

Applications for both the RN-BSN and Prelicensure BSN option continue to grow. For information about our degree options, please check out the Department of Nursing website at www.uncp.edu/nursing. For specific questions about nursing education options at UNCP, please call (910) 521-6522 to talk with one of our faculty advisors: Ms. Surrie McNeill is our prelicensure advisor, Ms. Cynthia Herndon is our RN-BSN advisor for main campus and Sandhills Community College campus, Ms. Jennifer Johnson is our advisor for students interested in attending the Southeastern Community College campus, and Ms. Joyce Stanley, is our advisor for the Ft. Bragg campus, send us an email (nursing@uncp.edu) or come visit us at any of our locations.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE



On September 15, 2005, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) and Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) officially celebrated a partnership between nursing education and nursing practice; between two great institutions

As we all know, there is a nursing shortage in this country and state. A couple of years ago, Chancellor Allan Meadors announced that he wanted the nursing faculty to plan a 4-year prelicensure BSN track. He stressed the need for the University community to play a major role in reversing the shortage in the State, and especially southeastern North Carolina.

As most of you know, the Department of Nursing is located in a small building on the Pembroke campus that could not house a greatly expanded nursing program. During the planning of the prelicensure option, Mr. Luckey Welsh, President of SRMC and Ms. Gail Davis, Vice-President of Patient Care Services presented the idea of locating the new prelicensure track on the medical center campus to Dr. Peggy Optiz, then, Chair of the Department of Nursing. As a result



of the vision of these 4 individuals, the pre-licensure BSN track is permanently housed in Department of Nursing Instructional Technology on the campus of Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) in Lumberton.

The Instructional Technology Center houses an instruction wing with “smart” classrooms, virtual learning center, seminar room, reading room, and

faculty resource room as well as a Clinical Learning Center wing which houses simulation suites for teaching basic nursing skills, health assessment, advanced care nursing skills, parent-child nursing skills, home care skills and a student lounge. The Clinical Learning center is equipped for student simulation learning related to healthcare situations with clients across the lifespan. This simulated learning environment with computerized mannequins, current healthcare equipment and technology, and a virtual reality center assist students with practice of real life nursing situations. The Clinical Learning Center offers students the opportunity for hands-on practice in clinical scenarios before they apply those skills at clinical sites.





During the ceremony, nursing faculty acknowledged the contribution of the Howard Brooks family, owners of Healthkeeperz, by presenting family members with the nameplate to the **Howard and Brenda Brooks Home Care Lab**. The lab simulates an apartment style home so that high-tech nursing can be practiced in a low-tech environment. The home care lab has a dining area, living area, bedroom area, and a home-style handicapped accessible bathroom.

As a result of their generosity, we furnished the home care suite with furniture and needed equipment so that students will be able to practice nursing skills in a home-like setting before actually venturing out into the real clinical setting visit clients in their homes.

We are continuing the development of our state-of-the-art Clinical Learning Center. Ms. Donna Cutrell, MSN, RN is the Clinical Learning Center Coordinator who will be in charge of the on-going development of the simulation laboratory and assist faculty in the integration of clinical simulation into the nursing curriculum.

For additional information, please visit the Department of Nursing website at www.uncp.edu/nursing. There is a link on the right side of the front page under **Latest News** that will take you to a full story on the event.

THE GIFT OF ENDOWMENTS

Endowed Professorship in Nursing

When a benefactor chooses to endow a professorship, this represents one of the highest honors bestowed on a university as well as the individual chosen for the appointment. An endowed professorship in nursing will assist us in attracting an outstanding nurse educator and/or scientist to our campus and our Department of Nursing. While at UNCP person in this role will be expected to continue to perform as an exemplary academician, excellent colleague, and a person whose accomplishments will make both the University and benefactor proud.

On September 15, Healthkeeperz, a regional, comprehensive home healthcare provider headquartered in Pembroke, N.C., announced a gift of \$250,000 to establish The Brenda B. Brooks Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Nursing. This is the first endowed professorship in nursing given to the University. The faculty and students of the Department of Nursing are grateful to the Brooks family for their commitment to nursing education, the University, and the community.

The endowed professorship will provide an additional faculty member for the Department of Nursing. A national search will be conducted for the position. The person appointed will be a distinguished nurse scholar who will have an outstanding publication and research record and will be expected to share this expertise by teaching in the Department of Nursing. Each appointment will be for five-years; the person will hold the rank of professor. It is the intent of

the Department of Nursing to utilize this Endowment to introduce a variety of expertise offered by each Endowed Professorship recipient to the students and the University in the areas of Nursing education, research, and practice.

Endowed Nursing Scholarships

It is the hope of the Department of Nursing to annually increase the number of permanently endowed scholarships created for the Department by alumni, friends, and parents. These scholarships will forever provide needed financial support to students enrolled in educational offerings of the Department of Nursing. A fully funded endowed scholarship is created with a gift of \$5,000 or more. Listed below are the generous individuals that have provided, or are honored by, an endowed scholarship to the Department of Nursing to date for 2005.

The Joan H. Wallace North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution American Indian Committee Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Ms. Joan H. Wallace, a nurse for 50 years has endowed a nursing scholarship at UNCP to honor the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and her Native American heritage.

Honorariums she receives for speaking engagements will be added to the \$5,000 scholarship so that the value of the scholarship will continue to appreciate.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to an American Indian nursing student with demonstrated financial need. The recipient must have been accepted into the UNCP's undergraduate nursing program and demonstrate ability and promise in the profession. The recipients of this scholarship for 2005-2006 are: Ms. Amy Revels Locklear and Mr. Jimmy Dean Locklear.

For additional information, please visit the UNCP website at www.uncp.edu. Refer to the archives of the University Newswire for a full story on the event.



H. Gail Davis Endowed Nursing Scholarship

The Patient Care Services Department of Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) has endowed a nursing scholarship at UNCP to honor H. Gail Davis and her commitment to nursing and to SRMC. Ms. Davis will be retiring from SRMC in December 2005 after a long and accomplished nursing career at the hospital. In addition, Ms. Davis was one of the graduates of the original

Diploma program that was housed in what is now the Department of Nursing Instructional Technology Center on the campus of SRMC.

Because of the generosity of the Patient Care Services Department, scholarship assistance will be available to students wanting to embark on a professional nursing career. We applaud you, for your love and admiration of Ms. Davis and the nursing profession.

Endowed Nursing Lectureship

As with endowed scholarships, a fully funded endowed lectureship is created with a gift of \$5,000 or more. Interest received annually from donations received for the lectureship will forever provide support for the Department to bring a national nursing leader to campus for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department hear speak on trends and issues facing nursing education, practice, and research.

Margaret (Peggy) G. Opitz Endowed Nursing Lectureship



The faculty of the Department of Nursing established the Margaret (Peggy) G. Opitz Endowed Lectureship to honor Dr. Peggy Opitz at the time of her retirement from the University.

Opitz retired in March 2005 after being with the University since 1992. Dr. Opitz, as many of you know, was instrumental in bringing baccalaureate education to southeastern North Carolina.

For information about contributing to the lectureship or any of the endowed nursing scholarships at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at 910.521.6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu.

WORTH NOTING

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Ms. Donna Cutrell, Clinical Learning Center Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor, received her MSN in Nursing Education from Duke University in 2004. Ms. Cutrell has been in nursing for over 25 years. She has experience in multiple areas of clinical nursing, hospital nursing administration, hospital patient education, and has been teaching in nursing education full or part time since 1989.

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, received her MS in Counseling in 1987 from Barry University and will receive her MSN in Nursing Education from East Carolina University in December 2005. She also received her credentials in 1991 as an Advanced Practice Nurse in Genetics. Mrs. Farmer has been in nursing for over 20 years.

Ms. Deborah Groves, Assistant Professor, received her MSN in Community/Mental Health Nursing in 1979 from East Carolina University. Mrs. Groves has been in nursing for over 28 years. She has been actively practicing in the area of Mental Health Nursing since 1979 either in clinical practice or nursing education.

FACULTY AND STAFF NOTATIONS



Ms. Joyce Stanley, Assistant Professor, gave two presentations to health occupations classes in Fayetteville on the topic of Military Nursing.

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, co-authored an article with Dr. Philip Buchanan, “The Pain of Pregnancy Loss, and the Quest for Answers” that was published in a recent issue of *Health & Healing in the Triangle*. Ms. Farmer also has

a support group for families who have experienced pregnancy and infant losses, SHARE Pregnancy and Infant Loss. The support groups meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Dogwood and Pines Room of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center Education Building on Village Drive.

Ms. Jennifer Twaddell, Assistant Professor, gave a presentation to local daycare staff in Fayetteville on the topics of motivation and time management. She authored an article which focused on her mentor in the NICU in the summer 2005 issue of NANN Central, a supplement to the National Association of Neonatal Nurses journal *Advances in Neonatal Care*. A second article which focuses on her transition from bedside nursing into nursing education will appear in an upcoming issue of NANN Central. The summer article may be viewed at www.nann.org/files/public/05Summer.pdf Ms. Twaddell is also responsible for publishing our new E-Newsletter, *Nursing Notes*.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez and Ms. Joyce Stanley presented on issues surrounding professional development at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in June. This was part of their Magnet Status educational preparation.

Yes, we are students too!!! The following faculty members continue to progress in their student roles: **Ms. Cherry Beasley**, doctoral student at East Carolina University, **Ms. Joyce Stanley** and **Ms. Lori Farmer**, masters degree students in nursing education at East Carolina University, **Ms. Jennifer Johnson** and **Ms. Cynthia Herndon**, Post-Master’s in Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner students at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

FACULTY AND STAFF TRANSITIONS

Dr. Peggy G. Opitz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing, retired after 12 years with the UNCP Department of Nursing. Even after her retirement, Dr. Opitz continues to be active in nursing and community activities.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Associate Professor and BSN Coordinator, assumed the role of Interim Chair, Department of Nursing when Dr. Opitz retired in March 2005.

Ms. Doretha Singley, Assistant Professor of Nursing since 2003, accepted a position at Fayetteville State University effective fall 2005.

Ms. Mary Baynes, Administrative Assistant V, for the Department of Nursing was recently promoted to an Administrative Assistant V from an Administrative Secretary II position. Ms. Baynes office is located in the Instructional Technology Center on the campus of SRMC in Lumberton.

CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

NOTEWORTHY STUDENTS



Jennifer Henley, member of Class of 2007, is currently featured on the University website as well as on billboards and other University publications. Dressed in her crisp white lab coat and with a shining stethoscope, she is not only promoting the University and the Department of Nursing, but the nursing profession. Way to go Jennifer!!

Two teams of students enrolled in NUR 315, Adult Health Nursing I with Ms. Joyce Stanley and Ms. Wanda Faircloth, volunteered for the Alzheimer Association of Eastern North Carolina Chapter's Memory Walk at the Luther Britt Park in Lumberton. The teams challenged each other to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. The Memory Walk proved to be a great way for students to experience the role of nurses in community service. Great Job!!



Nine students taking NUR 435 and N455 attended the North Carolina Nurse's Association Convention in October.

Calling all alumnae!! We want to hear from you. Please send your personal and career updates so that we might highlight you in the next issue of Nursing Notes. We are interested in marriages, births, professional development, school activities, work related activities, etc. This information may be submitted via email to nursing@uncp.edu or via phone at 521-6522

EVENTS AND LINKS – TAKE NOTE!

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 6, 2005 – Angel of Hope candle light service, Downtown Fayetteville

December 8, 2005 – Pinning, our Introduction to Professional Nursing Fall 2005 Ceremony

December 10, 2005 - Graduation

January 15, 2006 – Deadline for submission of applications for pre-licensure Class of 2008

February 11, 2006 – University wide Open House

April 22, 2006 – University wide Open House

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and fall. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed via email to nursing@uncp.edu or via phone at 521-6522.