

NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

Fall 2005 Introduction to Professional Nursing Ceremony

On December 8, 2005, the Department of Nursing honored its fall graduates during the “Introduction to Professional Nursing” biannual ceremony. Held in the Givens Performing Arts Center, 24 graduates received their nursing pins and accolades from their families, friends, and the nursing faculty. Graduates included: Sabrina Auman, Delena Bledsoe, Lisa Bodnar, Deborah Davies, Beth Ellison, Donna Edge Gibson, Connie Hicks, Caroline Hundley, Tina Jenkins, Lisa King, Marla Brien Lewis, Janice Locklear, Virginia Locklear, Ester Okons, Leslie Oxendine, Suzanne Perry, Donna Rotondo, Cheryl Speight, Ronnie Lynne Tunstall, Cindy Valasquez, Jennifer Yarnell, Teresa Zabala, and Christy Wilson.

Words of inspiration were offered by Pamela B. Edwards, EdD, MSN, RN, BC, Director, Education Services for Duke University Health System. Dr. Edwards also serves as Associate Consulting Professor and Director, Nursing Education Program for Duke University School Of Nursing and Deputy Director, Duke Area Health Education Center Program. Dr. Edwards has served as a member for the North Carolina Board of Nursing.



Dr. Edwards’ motivating words to the graduates focused on a poster she has framed in her office of a young nurse in a hospital playroom reading to two small children from the novel *The Wizard of Oz*. She took the needs of the characters in the novel and explained how each of their wishes are also requirements in the nursing profession. In her speech, Dr. Edwards stated, “The nursing profession is often described as the “heart” of health care. But being a nurse requires much more. It requires courage and brains as well as heart.” She remarked how brains are needed “to become life long learners and to be excited at the prospect of changing and learning everyday.” Courage is necessary in order to, “listen to your intuition and always place your patient and their safety first. You will never regret that practice.” Lastly, with regards to heart, “your heart will break a thousand times and mend again, as you journey the path with each of your patients.” Dr. Edwards’ parting words reflected on the privilege of practicing nursing. “Protect it, cherish it, and know that you have what it takes...the brains...the courage...and the heart to make a difference to our patients.” The department expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Edwards for her support and encouragement!

Ms. Gail Davis, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Ms. Teresa Barnes, Associate Vice President of Patient Care Services, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, gave each graduate a long stem red rose in recognition of their achievement.

Dr. Betty Johnson to Speak at Upcoming Guest Lectureship

The Department of Nursing annual Guest Lectureship series will be Thursday, April 20, 2006. This year’s featured lecturer will be Betty M. Johnson PhD, RN. Dr. Johnson is the Founding Chair and Emeritus Professor of Nursing at The University of Virginia’s College at Wise. She has served in such roles as Assistant and Associate Dean, Director, and Visiting Professor at both

the national and state levels throughout the country. Dr. Johnson has published books, book chapters, as well as several articles. She has given over 40 presentations and workshops including 3 international appearances. Dr. Johnson has provided her professional service to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education since 1997 and has served on numerous boards, committees, and task forces. During her 5 decades as a nurse, Dr. Johnson has truly impacted the profession of nursing. The department is honored to have Dr. Johnson share her knowledge with us. For more information, please call 521-6522.

The annual guest lectureship was started in 1992 with the founding of the RN-BSN nursing program at UNCP. The purpose of the lecture is to expose local nurses and nursing students to state and national leaders. This is a major goal since many students have limited exposure to professional nursing outside the local area. The first guest was Dr. Laura Copp, Dean of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing and editor of Professional Nursing. Her topic was pain management.

Department offers Admission to the Class of 2008

The BSN major at UNCP is fast becoming one of the most sought after majors on campus. From January 2005 to July 2006, the Department of Nursing will have seen an increase enrollment from approximately 45 RN-BSN students to 70 RN-BSN students and 110 pre-licensure BSN students. This will equate to a growth of 400% in 18 months.

Our second prelicensure BSN class was offered admission in March. Admission to the upper-division prelicensure BSN option is highly competitive. A total of 70 students were chosen from approximately 140 qualified applicants. The grade point average for the class is 3.36. The class will formally begin classes on June 29, 2006. A welcome is scheduled for April 28, 2006. All members of the class will be involved in new nursing student orientation June 13 - 16, 2006.

Brooks Family Gift Begins Partnership

A gift from a family with a long history in its community will boost nursing and healthcare in the region. Healthkeeperz, a Pembroke, N.C. comprehensive home health-care company, pledged \$250,000 to the Nursing Department of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. At a January 25, 2006 luncheon honoring the Brooks family, Healthkeeperz' owners, UNCP officials announced that the gift would establish the Brenda B. Brooks Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Nursing.

The endowment honors the late wife of company founder and Chairman Howard Brooks. It is part of a family legacy of involvement with UNCP and with the health of a community. "This is a significant gift for a small company," Brooks said after the luncheon. "I look at this as a partnership, the genesis of a developing relationship."

It was Healthkeeperz second contribution to UNCP's newest nursing program. The company also contributed to a home health clinical laboratory at UNCP's new nursing facility at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C.

“This is a great partnership, and the bottom line is that it’s good for our students,” said Chancellor Meadors. “We are about training quality professionals to help strengthen our community’s health care and improve the overall quality of life in the region.”

“We appreciate what Healthkeeperz and the Brooks family have done for the University,” he said. “This endowment will make a difference in the Nursing Department.”



UNCP honors Healthkeeperz – Dean Thomas Leach, Nursing Chair Barbara Synowicz, Ed Brooks, Tim Brooks, Chancellor Allen C. Meadors, Landa Brooks Strickland, Howard Brooks and Provost Charles Harrington.

Health Care Connections Gift

The Department of Nursing and the Department of Social Work are recipients of a combined \$5,000 from Health Care Connections of Raeford, NC. The monies received will be used to provide scholarships to students enrolled in either The Department of Nursing or the Department of Social Work. We applaud the support of our Department by Dwight Oxendine, CEO, of Health Care Connections.

Cape Fear Valley Health System Gifts

In an April 4, 2006 letter to Chancellor Meadors, Mr. Richard Parks, CEO of Cape Fear Valley Health System, Fayetteville, NC indicated the support of the Department of Nursing through two major gifts. The first gift of \$ 60,000 will support scholarships to BSN students. Representatives from Cape Fear Valley Health System and the UNCP Office of Advancement will assist with determining the methods of selecting scholarship recipients and distributing



the scholarship funds. The second gift of \$50,000 will be an Advance Degree Scholarship Endowment. This endowment will promote the movement of nurses into faculty positions by providing scholarship funds for those seeking advanced nursing degrees. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of Cape Fear Valley Health System and their support of our effort to meet the need for professional nurses in North Carolina.

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.

NOTABLE TECHNOLOGY

In the current rapidly changing healthcare environment, the need for nurses who are technologically proficient is evident. Current researchers have reported that the level of educational preparation of nurses is directly correlated to patient outcomes and the quality of nursing care delivered. The American Association of Colleges of Nurses (AACN) has identified several key components of a professional nursing practice environment, one of which includes the utilization of technological advances in clinical care and information systems (2002). AACN identifies learning that is enhanced through the use of technology as essential to quality nursing education. Professional nurses have the responsibility to possess critical thinking skills and to dissect critical information in an organized manner. Bridging the gap between didactic learning of theory and clinical application of the acquired knowledge is essential in preparation of the professional nurse. The UNCP Department of Nursing incorporates technology into the nursing curriculum through many avenues including the labs housed in the Clinical Learning Center.

The Clinical Learning Center is located on the campus of Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC), for both pre-licensure and RN-BSN students. The Clinical Learning Center houses five individual labs: the **Basic Care Lab**, the **Health Assessment Lab**, the **Howard and Brenda Brooks Home Care Lab**, the **Maternal/Child Lab**, and the **Critical Care Lab**. Each lab is equipped for student simulation learning related to healthcare situations with clients of diverse cultures across the lifespan. The Clinical Learning Center is available to students twelve hours a day, six days a week with plans to expand to twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This will provide students more opportunity to achieve expected course learning outcomes.

A **Basic Care Lab** is equipped with four advanced care bed units, to simulate hospital/clinic environment, and a variety of practice models. Each bed site is equipped with wall connections

for O2 and suction and connections for a PC. Students utilize this area to learn and practice bed bathing, occupied and unoccupied bed making, transferring and positioning, intravenous line insertion, intramuscular and subcutaneous injection, and urinary catheterization, among many other skills. Attached to this lab is a medication preparation area with sink, cabinets and room for a mobile medication cart.



There are plans to equip the Basic Care lab with a mounted video camera for the purpose of recording and analyzing student performance. This technique has been proven to not only teach students how to improve their techniques, but also to show them their current techniques. This equipment has the potential to enhance the learning experience by making it more thorough and expediated.

WORTH NOTING

Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

Ms. Michelle Rupard, Assistant Professor, received her MSN in the Family Nurse Practitioner tract from Duke University in 1998 and her BSN from East Carolina University in 1991. Ms. Rupard has 15 years experience in the labor and delivery setting. She is also a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant. Ms. Rupard joined the faculty in January 2006.

Ms. Brenda McPherson, Administrative Secretary II, joined our staff in November 2005. Prior to coming to The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Ms. McPherson had been with Southeastern Regional Medical Center for 14 years. Ms. McPherson earned an Associate Degree in Business from Robeson Community College.

Faculty and Staff Notations

Ms. Lori Farmer, Assistant Professor, graduated from East Carolina University in December 2005 with a Master's Degree in Nursing Education. Congratulations! She also was tapped for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society at East Carolina University in December 2005. The pinning ceremony will be on Saturday, April 22, 2006. Ms. Farmer also taught a segment of the Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Bereavement Counselor

training course at Womack Medical Center, entitled: "Follow up Support for Families after the Loss of a Baby".

Ms. Cynthia Herndon, Assistant Professor, was elected to the UNC-Pembroke Alumni Association Board of Directors on February 4, 2006.

Ms. Joyce Stanley, Assistant Professor, attended the 2006 Lilly South Conference on College and University Teaching entitled "Learning So Everyone Teaches" in Greensboro, NC on February 17-19, 2006. She also attended the North Carolina Board of Nursing 3rd Annual Education Summit entitled "Rethinking Clinical Education" in Chapel Hill, NC on March 20, 2006.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, has been asked to serve as a member of the Transition to Practice Stakeholder Advisory Committee in conjunction with The Foundation for Nursing Excellence, North Carolina Center for Nursing, and the North Carolina Area Health Education Center.

Ms. Jennifer Twaddell, Assistant Professor, spoke at the 25th Annual Professionals' Caring for Children Conference on the topic of Motivation and Time Management.

CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

Noteworthy Students

Deborah Davies, RN-BSN graduate of fall 2005, received the department's Nursing Excellence Award during the University's annual Awards Day. Ms. Davies is employed by First Health of the Carolinas, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Pinehurst.

Connie Hicks, RN-BSN graduate of fall 2005, received the department's Nursing Practice Award during the University's annual Awards Day. Ms. Hicks is currently employed in psych/mental health nursing in the Raleigh area and is a graduate student at Duke University School of Nursing.

In October of 2005, Jessica Hasty and Bobbi Maynor, from the prelicensure class, were inducted into The Alpha Chi Honor Society. Alpha Chi is a national honor society for undergraduates with superior academic records. Membership in Alpha Chi is the highest and most prestigious academic award that you can attain at UNCP. The undergraduates include juniors who rank in the upper 5% of their class and seniors who rank in the upper 10% of their class. There were only 42 juniors and 59 seniors who meet the criterion. Ms. Hasty was inducted as a junior and also belongs to the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and The National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses Honor Society. Ms. Maynor was inducted as a senior and is also a member of the Alpha Sigma Honor Society.

On March 25, 2006 two groups of students from the prelicensure BSN class met to voluntarily participate in this year's March of Dimes Walk America in Lumberton. The groups headed by students, Jessica Hasty and Bobbi Maynor, also worked to raise money for the event. Ms. Lori

Farmer sang the national anthem at the start of the event. The March of Dimes' mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. The students in the prelicensure BSN option are completing Family Nursing I – Nursing of the Childbearing Family and Family Nursing II – Nursing of the Childrearing Family during the spring 2006 semester.

Noteworthy Alumni

Janice Locklear, RN-BSN graduate of fall 2005, has achieved certification in school nursing through the National Board for Certification of School Nurses, Inc. (NBCSN). Ms. Locklear is a school nurse for the Robeson County Schools.

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

April 20, 2006 – Annual Guest Lectureship

April 22, 2006 – University wide Open House

April 28, 2006 – Welcome, Class of 2008

May 4, 2006 – Spring Introduction to Professional Nursing Ceremony

May 6, 2006 – Spring Commencement

June 13-16, 2006 – New Pre-licensure BSN Student Orientation