Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2013 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.

**Dates to Remember**

- **May 20, 2013**
  - Summer Session I Begins
- **June 3-5, 2013**
  - New Student Orientation
- **June 25, 2013**
  - Summer Session II Begins
- **June 28, 2013**
  - Last day to drop/add class
- **July 4, 2013**
  - University closed
- **August 14, 2013**
  - Fall Classes Begin
- **September 5, 2013**
  - University closed
- **September 12, 2013**
  - University immunization deadline
- **October 10-12, 2013**
  - Fall break—no classes
- **October 16, 2013**
  - Last day to drop course with a “W”
- **November 28-29, 2013**
  - University closed

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Alumni News
This e-newsletter brings us to the close of the traditional academic school year. With each edition of Nursing Notes, I have the opportunity to update friends of the Department of Nursing with some of the exciting accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. There are always so many to report, and this edition is no exception.

As you read this edition of Nursing Notes, you will learn about the approval of our new Master’s of Science in Nursing program that will start this coming fall. The MSN program will offer three concentrations: nursing educator, clinical nurse leader, and rural case manager. We anticipate enrolling 18-20 students in the first class. Please visit at our website www.uncp.edu/nursing for more information or email me at barbara.synowiez@uncp.edu.

Our baccalaureate program continues to grow and is preparing some of the very best nurses practicing in North Carolina and the nation. Congratulations to the class of 2013! As a result of our growth in the baccalaureate program and with the addition of the graduate program, we have also been able to welcome additional faculty resources; this fall will have 18 full-time nursing faculty members.

The faculty continues to excel in teaching, scholarship, and service. In this edition of Nursing Notes, many of those accomplishments are highlighted. In the coming years, it is our goal to be recognized for excellence in teaching, scholarship, practice, service, including community engagement, and noted for our innovative academic nursing programs that are responsive to the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing, complex, health care delivery environment.

Throughout the year many alumni and friends come to visit in person. We love showing off the new Health Sciences Building, which as you know is the new home of the Department of Nursing. If you have not seen our new space, please call 910-521-6522 and we will arrange to show you around.

Enjoy this edition of Nursing Notes!

Barbara B. Synowiez, PhD, MSN, RN
Chair and Professor
Master’s in Nursing (MSN) Program Approved

The Department of Nursing is proud to report that the UNC Board of Governors has approved UNCP’s proposal to offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at UNCP. The first class of 18 to 20 students will enroll in graduate courses beginning during the Fall 2013 semester.

The MSN program will provide registered nurses, with a baccalaureate degree in nursing, with an opportunity to build expertise in a specialized area of practice while enhancing skills in theory and research for use in professional practice. Nurses holding a master’s degree have many career options, including teaching in community colleges, staff development, community education and universities. Many of these nurses also hold leadership positions in hospitals, health departments, schools, long-term care and other health-care related environments.

The degree requires 39 hours of graduate-level coursework as either full-time or part-time students. Full-time students can expect to complete their MSN in a little over two years. Both full-time and part-time students must complete all degree requirements within five calendar years from the date of first registration for graduate study.

The MSN program will offer three concentrations: nurse educator, clinical nurse leader and rural case manager.

The nurse educator option is designed to prepare practicing nurses to assume roles as educators in baccalaureate and associate degree nursing programs, staff development programs, continuing education programs, and community health education programs. This option will assist the nursing profession in addressing the shortage of nurse educators that is occurring both regionally and nationally.

The clinical nurse leader concentration will prepare highly skilled nurse leaders to focus on improving quality and safety outcomes for clients and populations. It will focus on the assessment, design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of evidence-based quality improvement solutions. Graduates will be eligible to take the clinical nurse leader certification examination offered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

The rural case manager concentration will prepare nurses to coordinate and implement case management services at the system and community levels to promote quality cost-effective health outcomes for rural populations. Graduates of the program will be able eligible for case manager positions across all health care settings. Graduates will be eligible to take a case management certification examination. UNCP is the only nursing school in North Carolina offering a concentration of this type.

Students graduating from the MSN program will increase the number of educators available to teach at local community colleges and throughout the region. The specialized training these programs offer will provide graduates with the skills necessary to manage healthcare programs and services that will have a direct impact on many members of our local communities.

Nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree may apply directly to the University’s master’s program. Registered nurses with an associate’s degree or diploma in nursing may also apply, although some prerequisite courses will be required prior to being admitted into the program.

More information is available on our website at http://www.uncp.edu/nursing/MSN%20Program/.
The 2012-2013 academic year came to an end as the Department of Nursing celebrated the achievements of 40 (22 prelicensure and 18 RN-BSN) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates.

During the pinning ceremony, Dr. Barbara Synowiez presented each graduate with their nursing pin, signifying the completion of education required to become a registered nurse. Graduates received the Lamp of Knowledge, which symbolizes the accumulated body of knowledge and skills that is fundamental to the practice of professional nursing and illuminates the way to excellence in the nursing profession. Chief Nursing Officer, Renae Taylor, presented an individual red rose, representing love, respect and courage, to each nursing graduate on behalf of Southeastern Health. Lastly, each graduate took the International Pledge for Professional Nursing, affirming the common goals of all nurses around the world.

**The International Pledge for Professional Nursing**

> In the full knowledge of the obligations I am undertaking, I promise to care for the sick with all of the skill and understanding I possess, without regard to race, color, creed, politics, or social status.

> I will respect, at all times, the dignity and religious beliefs of the patients under my care and holding in confidence all personal information entrusted to me and refraining from any action which might endanger life or health.

> I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skill at the highest level and give loyal support and cooperation to all members of the health care team.

*Left to right: Regina Kirkland, Amanda McClelland, Kristen Bowen, Jennie Zary, Sarah Walls, Emily Cantrell, Courtney Sykes, Brittany Emmerich, Melissa Bowman, and Brittany Almond (Does not include all graduates)*
Awards and Honors

The Nursing Excellence Award is presented annually to the nursing student who has a GPA equal to or greater than 3.85 who exemplifies the BSN philosophy for the program, and who demonstrates excellence in professional practice. This year’s recipients were Amanda McClelland (prelicensure) and Mary Mabe (RN-BSN).

The Scotland Memorial Hospital Service Award is presented annually to the nursing student who best meets the criteria of scholastic ability, professionalism, interpersonal relationship skills, and caring attitude. This year’s recipient is William Buffaloe.

The Nursing Practice Award is presented annually to the nursing student who has demonstrated excellence in the application of nursing theories and concepts and has demonstrated nursing vision and leadership in applying theory-based nursing practice. This year’s recipients were Georgina Kirkland (prelicensure) and Mary Mabe (RN-BSN).

The Association of Nursing Students Leadership Award is presented annually to a member of the Association of Nursing Students who has a GPA equal to or greater than 3.0 and who most exemplifies leadership skills/potential among the membership. This year’s recipient is Victoria Graham.
Pinning and Commencement
Teaching

Nursing faculty are taking advantage of the cutting-edge technology housed in the Clinical Learning Center. David Wenger perfects his assessment skills on six-month-old, Samantha, during his pediatric nursing rotation. Junior students enrolled in the pediatrics course were provided several simulated learning experiences to enhance their ability to provide safe nursing care to children suffering from diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), dehydration and infection with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Senior nursing students participated in three days of simulated learning experiences for their Nursing Leadership course. The simulations were designed to assist students in perfecting their leadership skills related to time management, priority-setting, delegation and team building. Though the focus was leadership, these experiences also assisted students to apply all concepts learned throughout the nursing curriculum to client care situations. Students were actively engaged in learning and played various roles, including actual clients, family members, manager, charge nurse, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse and nursing assistant.

Simulated learning is not be limited to clinical courses at UNCP. Dr. Cherry Beasley, Dr. Tiffany Tyson and ECU graduate student, Al West, utilized it to promote understanding of pathophysiological concepts associated with burn injuries, allowing students to utilize their senses and gain a better understanding of physiological processes associated with burns. In this scenario, Bobby (SimMan 3G) suffered second-degree burns to his torso, arms and face. Students saw first-hand what these burns may look like as well as the associated physiological changes that occur secondary to such injuries.

Jennifer Johnson Named Director of Undergraduate Program

Mrs. Jennifer Johnson assumed the role of Director of the Undergraduate Program in March 2013. Ms. Johnson received her BSN from Barton College, her MSN from East Carolina University, and her Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner from UNC Chapel Hill. She is currently a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) candidate at the University of Alabama, expecting to fulfill all program requirements in August 2013. Mrs. Johnson has served as a faculty member for the Department since 2003, and served as Coordinator for the Division of Family and Community Health.

Mrs. Johnson will be responsible for assuring the quality and delivery of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (prelicensure and RN-BSN) in the context of the strategic goals of the Department. She reports directly to the Chair of the Department of Nursing.
Faculty & Staff

New Faculty and Staff

Tiffany Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC (left), earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Barton College, her Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner from Duke University and her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Robert Morris University. Dr. Tyson will be involved in teaching Pathophysiology, Foundations to Nursing Practice, Health Assessment, Pediatric Nursing and Mental Health Nursing.

Leslie Oxendine, MSN, FNP, earned her Associates Degree in Nursing from Robeson Community College, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNC Pembroke, and her Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner from UNC Wilmington. Ms. Oxendine will be teaching Foundations to Nursing Practice, Nursing Leadership, Pediatric Nursing, and Community Health Nursing.

Shelly Townsend-Bowens will be fulfilling the role of Student Success Advocate for the South Central NC Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) project. She completed her BS in Mass Communications/Public Relations at UNCP and is currently completing her Master of Public Administration at Walden University. She will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of student services for the project and promote successful completion for all RIBN students. This project serves UNCP, Sandhills, Southeastern, Richmond and Robeson Community Colleges.
It is well known that a variety of factors can increase one’s risk of cancer, including genetic influences and a variety of external factors such as tobacco, alcohol, infectious organisms and exposure to chemicals and/or radiation. Many cancers are preventable, as the American Cancer Society (2013) estimates that approximately 174,100 cancer deaths in 2013 will be attributable to tobacco use. The World Cancer Research Fund (2013) estimates that one-fourth to one-third of new cancer cases expected to occur in the United States in 2013 will be related to being overweight and/or obese, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition. More cancer facts can be found by reviewing the American Cancer Society’s "Cancer Facts & Figures 2013". The knowledge we have gained regarding cancer prevention, associated risk factors, disease progression and treatment options would be unbeknownst to us without cancer research. The Department of Nursing is a strong advocate of research, and thus, had a strong presence during the University’s campaign to raise funds to support such research.

During the 2013 UNCP Relay for Life Campaign, there were 46 teams, 487 participants and fundraising efforts exceeded $17,000. This year, faculty and students from the Department of Nursing joined forces to fight cancer, raising $5,130 for the cause, earning us the “Top Overall Fundraising Team” and “Silver Award Winning Team” awards. The theme for this year’s event was board games, and Nursing chose the game of “Life”, decorating the campsite with various mannequins representing various stages of a person’s life. For the second year in a row, the team was awarded the “Best Campsite” award for its efforts.
Service

Molding the Future

Department of nursing faculty, staff and current students are not the only ones who are actively involved in service activities. Pictured above are two of our pre-nursing freshman who are members of the Discover Nursing: Living, Learning, Leading Community (DNL3C). As stated in the DNL3C mission, this community fosters peer, faculty, and resident interaction that enhance both intellectual and personal growth of residents. Students in this program are expected to participate in special events and activities designed to introduce students to the nursing profession. In this picture, participants are shown working side-by-side with current students and faculty in the preparation for the 2013 UNCP Relay for Life activities. Several of the DNL3C participants took advantage of this activity by helping to decorate and/or by walking the track throughout the night in order to celebrate and support all of those who have been affected by cancer. Students also participated in various blood drives over the course of the semester.

Nurse of the Day

The North Carolina Nurse’s Association supplies the “Nurse of the Day” (NOD) while the NC General Assembly is in session. UNCP nursing faculty, Mrs. Jennifer Jones-Locklear and Mrs. Martha Hepler, fulfilled this professional service during the 2013 session.

Serving in this capacity provides a valuable service to members of the General Assembly and the legislative staff providing such services as assessing vital signs and dispensing over-the-counter medications for common complaints such as headaches, upset stomach or allergies. In the case of an emergency, the nurses would respond accordingly.

This opportunity allowed for attendance to several committee meetings as well as the deliberations in the House of Representatives and Senate. Both were introduced on the floor of each house as legislators rose to acknowledge this voluntarily service provided to members of the General Assembly.

For more information regarding the “Nurse of the Day” program, please visit the NCNA website at http://www.ncnurses.org/legislative/nod-general.dot

Nursing Faculty Provide Cancer Education

Dr. Cherry Beasley and Ms. Jennifer Jones-Locklear MSN/Ed., RN, along with UNCP graduate Ms. Donna Lowry BSN, RN, have been providing cancer education to members of the Lumbee Tribe during open community forums entitled “The Big “C”: What Do You Know About Cancer?” , sponsored by the Changing Lifestyles, Living Longer Program, a grant funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Participants of this forum learn about cancer risks and how to eat healthy in order to decrease risk for disease. Educational materials and opportunities to practice cancer screening with simulation models were provided as was information related to medical homes, cancer risks and obesity in the Lumbee Tribe. This series wrapped up for the 2013 year in the Robeson County area. The next year of grant funding will begin July 1, 2013, and will serve members of the Lumbee Tribe in Robeson and surrounding counties.

Visit Commerce Plaza at 171 Comtech Drive Bldg 57-A Suite A, in Pembroke, NC, for more information related to the Changing Lifestyles, Living Longer Program.
Scholarship

Research Initiatives

◊ Dr. Cherry Beasley, team of UNCP and UNC-CH faculty: “Centers for Diabetes Translation Research to Reduce Disparities (CDTR) Pilot and Feasibility Program”

◊ Dr. Dena Evans and Dr. Barbara Synowiez: “Ability of the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) to Predict Student Success in Nursing School”

◊ Dr. Dena Evans, Joyce Stanley, Aprel Ventura, Dr. Jennifer Twaddell, Jennifer Jones-Locklear, Martha Hepler, Dr. Theresa Campbell: “ATI Nurse’s Touch Initiative”

◊ Jennifer Johnson: “Cultural Competency and Refugees: Assessment of Nursing Staff in a Rural Healthcare System.”

◊ Dr. Jennifer Twaddell: “Parent Education Needs of Infants with Complex Life-Threatening Illnesses.”

Grant Initiatives

◊ Dr. Dena Evans and Michelle McEwen: Clinical Site Development (Funded by SRAHEC)

◊ Dr. Dena Evans: ATI Nurse’s Touch (Approved)

◊ Dr. Dena Evans, Ben Bahr and other UNCP Faculty: BUILD Grant

◊ Dr. Cherry Beasley and Al West: (Southeastern Community College): Rural Educational Mobility Project (Funded)

◊ 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: North Carolina RIBN Project (Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Faculty Recognitions

◊ Joyce Beard enrolled in PhD program at UNC Greensboro

◊ Dr. Cherry Beasley, Dr. Dena Evans and Aprel Ventura maintain active NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) distinction

◊ Dr. Dena Evans enrolled in UNC Chapel Hill MSN program with focus on Clinical Nurse Leader

◊ Jennifer Johnson is a DNP Candidate at the University of Alabama

◊ Martha Hepler enrolled in FNP program at UNC Wilmington

◊ Jennifer Twaddell earned PhD in Nursing from UNC Greensboro in May 2013

◊ Dr. Tiffany Tyson enrolled in 2nd DNP program at Robert Morris University

◊ Aprel Ventura has been accepted into the PhD program at East Carolina University for Fall 2013

Presentations

◊ Dr. Dena Evans and Dr. Barbara Synowiez: “Mastering the Role of Precepting”, Scotland Health System—April 2013


Publication

◊ Dr. Dena Evans (2013). Examining the influence of noncognitive variables on the intention of minority Baccalaureate nursing students to complete their program of study. Journal of Professional Nursing, 29(3)
Scholarship

Jennifer Twaddell Earns PhD in Nursing

The Department of Nursing is proud to announce that faculty Jennifer Twaddell has successfully completed all requirements for her PhD in Nursing through the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Twaddell has been a faculty member for the UNCP nursing team since the prelicensure program began in 2004. She received her BSN from Radford University and her MSN from Duke University School of Nursing. The title of her dissertation is “Parent Education Needs of Infants with Complex Life-Threatening Illnesses”.

Dr. Twaddell teaches in a variety of courses, including Adult Health, Family Nursing I and II, and Health Assessment. She has been approved as a graduate faculty for the new MSN program, which is scheduled to launch in Fall 2013. In addition to her teaching role, Dr. Twaddell has recently been named as Director for the South Central NC RIBN Collaborative. Dr. Twaddell is pictured above with her husband and two children who supported her throughout her program.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. TWADDELL!

Poster Presentation

Mrs. Joyce Beard presented her poster entitled, “The Impact of Economic Downturn on Health and Health-Seeking Behaviors of Older Workers” at the Southern Nursing Research Society’s Annual Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas in March 2013.

Article Published

An article written by Dr. Dena Evans, entitled “Examining the Influence of Noncognitive Variables on the Intention of Minority Baccalaureate Nursing Students to Complete Their Program of Study” has been published in the May 2013 Journal of Professional Nursing. This journal “addresses the practice, research, and policy roles of nurses with baccalaureate and graduate degrees, the education and management concerns of the universities in which they are educated, and the settings in which they practice”.
Student News

Castañeda Awarded Scholarship

Rising senior prelicensure student, Miranda Castañeda, was selected to receive one of ten Army Nurse Corps Association (ANCA) Nursing Scholarships. The selection of this award was highly competitive as several applications were submitted this year. The scholarships are awarded based on donations from the ANCA memberships.

The purpose of the ANCA Scholarship Program is to award scholarships to students who are U. S. citizens attending accredited baccalaureate or graduate nursing or anesthesia programs. Miranda’s husband, SSG Robert Castañeda, currently serves in the US Army, making her eligible for this scholarship.

The 2013 scholarships were awarded in memory of US Army Captain Bruce Kevin Clark, who lost his life in May 2012 while serving in Afghanistan.

Congratulations, Miranda, and a big THANK YOU, to Robert and all of those who serve our country!

Department of Nursing Welcomes New Students

In May 2013, rising seniors Miranda Castañeda, Charles Kurtz and Avery Daniels (top right) assisted the Department of Nursing with officially welcoming the Class of 2015. This year, the department accepted the largest prelicensure class in UNCP Nursing’s history. Eighty students will begin their nursing journey in June 2013, as they actively engage in NUR 3010 (Introduction to Professional Nursing) and NUR 3030 (Foundations to Professional Nursing Practice).

We would like to say a special THANK YOU to the UNCP Bookstore, who donated two UNCP gift baskets as door prizes for our New Student Welcome activities.

Welcome to UNCP Nursing, Class of 2015!
UNCP Nursing Alumni

Our alumni are doing great things.

♦ Megan Brister (pictured left), Class of 2012, has already moved forward in her quest for lifelong learning by being accepted into the East Carolina University Nurse Midwifery program. She will begin her journey in Fall 2013.

♦ Benjamin McMillan (pictured right), Class of 2008, graduated from the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program at UNC Chapel Hill in May 2013. He is also expecting his first child this spring.

♦ Kelly Deal, Class of 2008, is expecting her first child this spring.

Please help us stay informed or our alumni by sending emails to martha.hepler@uncp.edu