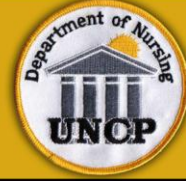




# NURSING NOTES

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Welcome to the Spring 2011 issue of **Nursing Notes**, the E-Newsletter for alumni, friends and family of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Nursing. To learn more about the Nursing Program at UNC Pembroke, visit our Web site at [www.uncp.edu/nursing/](http://www.uncp.edu/nursing/)

## NOTICEABLY NEWSWORTHY

### Nursing and Health Professions Building Breaks Ground

On November 2, 2010, the Department of Nursing was bursting with pride as ground was broken for the largest state-funded project in UNCP history at a cost of \$29 million. When completed in January 2012, the building will house the growing and increasingly successful Nursing Department. The home to future health programs too, promised Chancellor Kyle R. Carter.



*building rendering*

“This building is a response to a regional need for nurses,” Chancellor Carter said. “It will be home to the Nursing Department and other health professions that will follow.”

Former state Senator David Weinstein, whose “dogged determination” won funding for the project was present. Senator Weinstein, who served as a UNCP

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

trustee and then 13 years in the senate, said this project was his “proudest moment” as a legislator.

“This is a proud day for me and the University,” Sen. Weinstein said. “I was fortunate to be a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee when money was available.

“This is the jewel in the crown because the need for nursing in this region is great,” he continued. “This University has a special place in my heart, and I hope the future treats it well.”



*Above, members of the senior class, UNCP faculty, and community join to celebrate.*

Chancellor Carter also singled out Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) for their help. CEO Joanne Anderson spoke for the Lumberton-based medical center, which is home to the 200-plus students of UNCP’s pre-licensure program.

“My background is in nursing and my passion is nursing,” Anderson said. “Southeastern Regional Medical Center has been a proud partner with UNCP nursing, and we want to continue our relationship. “Healthcare reform places a premium on nursing, and I am proud to be part of something that is producing those nurses,” she said.

Dr. Barbara Synowiez is chair of the Nursing Department that has two programs: a four-year pre-licensure program and an RN-to-BSN program. She commented on the future. “We’ve been waiting a long time for this day,” Dr. Synowiez said. “This is a day to celebrate the realization of a vision for the future.

“The new building will allow us to double the size of our nursing program and add a Master of Nursing program,” she continued. “It will make us competitive in recruitment of the best students available, and it will advance the practice of nursing.”

UNCP nursing is increasingly successful with 95 percent of its graduates passing the state examination (NC-LEX). Three nursing faculty members earned doctorates in 2010, beefing up the department’s credentials.



*With joy, faculty of the Department of Nursing turns the ground for the new building.*

### **2011 Pinning and Recognition Ceremony**

May 5, 2011 was a special evening for 19 pre-licensure students and 18 RN-BSN nurses as they were pinned by the nursing department at the annual Pinning and Recognition Ceremony. Eight of the RN-BSN nurses were December graduates. The evening was a milestone for the students and their families indicating the end of their BSN journey and entry into the nursing profession. Student speakers reflected on times of challenge, trial, joy, and success along their paths as individuals and as a group.

Awards were presented to students for their growth and accomplishments. Recipients include **Lisa Suggs and Tina Johnson, RN**, Nursing Practice Award; **Stephanie Hammonds**, Scotland Memorial Hospital Nursing Service Award; **Angela Azzone**, Caring Touch Home and

Behavioral Health Care Award; and **Aimée Mack**, Association of Nursing Students Leadership Award. These students are great examples of professional nurses. Well done!

Pre-licensure pin recipients include Santana Locklear Ammons, Angela Azzone, Catherine Cox, Stephanie Hammonds, Crissy Hardison, Tamra Henderson, Stephanie Locklear, Susana Lopez, Aimée Mack, Shana Nixon, Heather Norton, Tasha Oxendine, Jessica Parker, Kendal Purvis, Alexis Rivera-Rodríguez, Rob Scott, Lisa Suggs, William Sumner, and Jessica Trost. Registered nurses completing their baccalaureate degree requirements being pinned include Jennifer Altman\*, Lizzie Batten, Belenda Douglas, Stacey Green, Cathy Hardee\*, Cassie Henderson, Elizabeth Hodgkin, Ernestine Johnson\*, Doris Jones, Gina Locklear\*, Vivian McNeill, Catherine Morgan, Corissa Peate\*, Gail Pruner, Lindsay Stubbs\*, Teresa Synowiez\*, Jamie Young\*, and Ellen Walters (\* indicated December 2010 graduate). Congratulations on your many accomplishments!

### **Charles R. Jenkins Friends of Nursing Award**

The Charles R. Jenkins Friends of Nursing Award is presented by the faculty of the Nursing Department to an individual or group who has strongly influenced nursing in the community. For only the second time since the award's inception, the faculty bestowed this honor upon Mr. Howard Brooks, founder and chairman of Healthkeeperz. This community business offers home health, medical equipment, pharmacy and respiratory care programs that serve the region and has approximately 600 employees.

Mr. Brooks has had a vision for healthcare in the Pembroke community and in southeastern North Carolina many decades and has brought many of his visions to reality through Healthkeeperz over the past 15 years.

Mr. Brooks' support of the nursing program began in Fall 2005 when Healthkeeperz donated the Howard and Brenda Brooks Home Health Care Lab to the program at SRMC. The



*Mr. Howard Brooks*

Brooks' family also provided generous support to begin The Brenda B. Brooks Endowed Distinguished Professorship which will fund a faculty position in UNCP's Nursing Department.

"We are not making this gift because we have so many resources, but because it is worth the sacrifice to help the development of UNCP's nursing program," Brooks said. "It will have a ripple effect throughout the region."

"This nursing program will benefit nursing in home health care as well, and produce positive outcomes for our patients and holistically lift the health of our region," Brooks said.

The first recipient of the Friends of Nursing Award and the person for whom the award is named, Dr. Charles R. Jenkins has also been a career supporter of nursing in this community and helped bring both the RN-BSN and pre-licensure nursing programs to UNCP.

### Senior Class Brings Change



The Class of 2011 presented their NUR 4120, Leadership in Nursing, Change Projects at Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) on March 1, 2011. Change topics were related to falls prevention and reducing the readmission rates of congestive heart failure patients. The session was very well attended by SRMC staff. Our very own Jason Godaire, Class of 2007, came by to lend his support. The hospital has expressed interest in implementing aspects of at least 2 of the projects hospital-wide.

*At left, an example of a poster presentation on “Discharge Teaching in Congestive Heart Failure Clients”, a proposed change project.*

### Simulation Brings Learning to Life

NUR 4120, Leadership in Nursing, faculty created delegation and prioritization simulation days at the clinical learning lab at Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC). Students were immersed in a simulated hospital environment as they were assigned a variety of roles to include charge nurse, unit manager, licensed practice nurse, and unit assistive personnel. Students in the role of charge nurse had to organize and prioritize the care of multiple clients across the lifespan suffering from a variety of illnesses. Client roles were played by student or faculty actors.



*Seniors in NUR 4120 simulation with Mrs. Groves.*

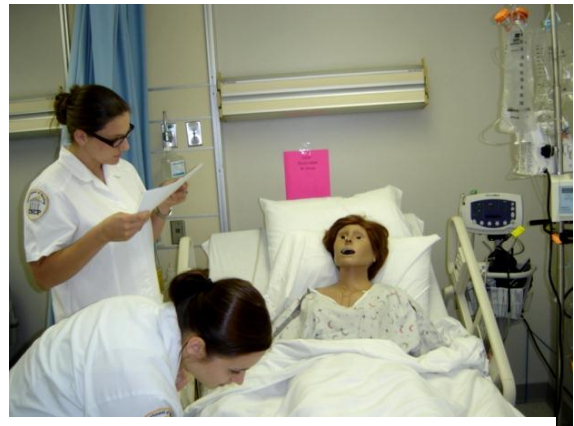


*Junior students simulate doctor's office setting.*

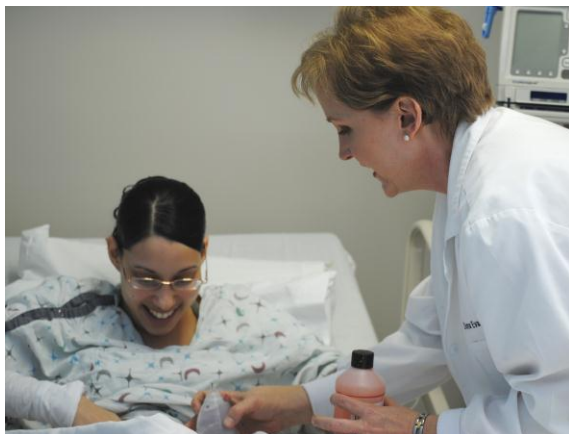
Junior students, Class of 2012, participated in simulation for NUR 3450, Family Nursing I, and NUR 3500, Family Nursing II this spring. Family Nursing I simulation focused on communication skills with colleagues and clients, prioritization of medication orders, and abrupt change in client status. Family Nursing II simulation advanced students to critical thinking skills such as prioritizing nursing diagnoses, communicable diseases in the community, and client education techniques. Mannequins, client charts, and faculty assisted students as they worked together through situations in various settings.



*Students collaborate and carry out nursing interventions for the 'client'.*



*Hospital admission orders are reviewed for the 'client'.*



*Dr. Evans prepares a client for simulation.*



*Mrs. Johnson acts as the 'client's' family member in this scenario.*

## Nursing in Second Life®

Nursing students went to a new and very different hospital setting for training on January 25, 2011. They immersed themselves in cyberspace with Mass Communication professor, Dr. Tony Curtis. The students performed real-world clinicals at UNCP's virtual nursing hospital in Second Life.

Dr. Curtis built a cyber hospital on UNCP's virtual campus so students can work under controlled conditions with faculty members in the nursing program.

"Students immerse themselves in real-world clinical scenarios while in the safety of the virtual world," Dr. Curtis said. "Simulations are created and facilitated, which foster students' ability to care for diverse client populations across the lifespan."

The virtual teaching hospital is providing experiential learning for nursing students in coordination with the Nursing Department.

The extensive facility simulates a real hospital, and it works well, said Dr. Evans, who began working with Dr. Curtis last summer. They have created a number of specific scenarios for nursing students.



*UNCP's virtual hospital in Second Life®*



*Dr. Evans, center right in white, aka 'Dr. Restless', lectures to senior students outside of the virtual hospital.*

"It provides students with a safe environment in which to engage their classmates (avatars) in a variety of scenarios," Dr. Evans said.

"This constructivist approach to learning fosters critical thinking and clinical decision making, enhances self-efficacy and allows students to make meaningful connections to previous learning, while in the safety of a virtual environment," Dr. Evans continued.

"Nursing students can enter the 3D virtual-reality world for orientation to the latest tools required in the nursing program while directing their own learning outcomes," she continued.

Dr. Curtis noted the virtual hospital facility is online 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, so students can practice at their own time and pace in addition to working their scheduled clinical hours.

Dr. Curtis, who has been using Second Life in the classroom for four years, built UNCP's three-year-old virtual campus and its new training hospital.

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### Students Visit from Kyung Hee University

Nursing students from Kyung Hee University in Korea made their way to UNCP for a six week visit in January and February. While on campus, students toured the Clinical Learning Center and practiced hands-on skills in the health assessment lab with Mrs. Donna Cutrell. The group also attended classes with UNCP junior nursing students in NUR 3450, Family Nursing I. The nursing students participated in small group sessions and shared aspects of nursing in Korea. Several faculty lectured and led discussions with the Korean and junior students to facilitate cultural and diversity aspects of individualized nursing care.



*Above, students practice ear examinations.*

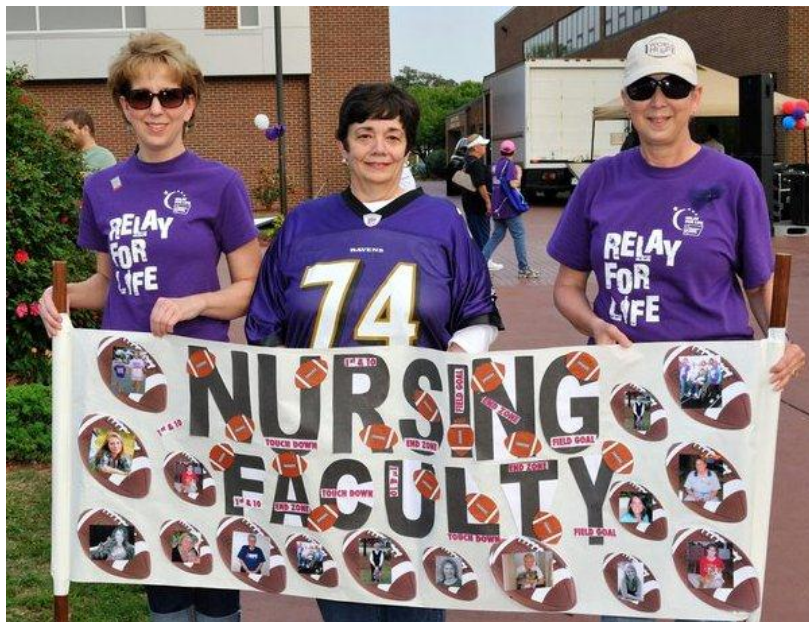


*At left, the group gathers with Mrs. Cutrell to care for their client, 'Mr. Carson'.*

## Relay for Life Participation



*Above and right, junior nursing students raise money by 'Patching Up Cancer, One Laugh at a Time!' during Relay for Life at UNCP.*



*At left, department of nursing cancer survivors carry our banner as we give cancer the 'Blind Side'.*

## **Department Enters into Bridge Agreements**

The Department of Nursing is working with Robeson Community College and Sandhills Community College to make the transition from associate degree nursing to baccalaureate degree nursing education smoother. Dr. Cherry Beasley, RN-BSN Coordinator for the department, has been working closely with both community colleges. The agreements will allow graduates of both programs to have their pre-requisite courses for UNCP's RN-BSN program complete when they finish their associate's degree at their respective community college. Having these courses complete will allow the students to continue directly into BSN education without stopping to take additional general education courses. Bridge agreements have the potential to increase BSN prepared nurses in southeastern North Carolina at a faster rate than traditional methods due to decreasing the time for required pre-requisite course work between degrees.

## **Department offers Admission to the Class of 2013**

Our seventh pre-licensure BSN class was offered admission in March. Admission to the upper-division pre-licensure BSN option is highly competitive. A total of 58 students were chosen from over 90 qualified applicants. A welcome was held April 29, 2011. Door prizes and decorations were donated by the UNCP bookstore for the welcome event. New student orientation will be held June 6-10, 2011 with formal classes beginning June 29, 2011.

## **WORTH NOTING**

### **Welcome New Faculty**

**Mrs. Martha Hepler**, Assistant Professor, joined the faculty in January 2011. She received her BSN from Glenville State College/West Virginia University and her MSN from Duke University. Mrs. Hepler comes to us with 6 years experience in the community college system. Her clinical specialty is obstetrics.

**Ms. Lynette Jones**, Assistant Professor, joined the faculty in November 2010. She received her Associate's degree from Forsyth Technical Community College and BSN and MSN in Nursing Education from Winston-Salem State University. Her clinical specialty is surgical care with a focus on the cardiovascular system.

### **Faculty and Staff Notations**

**Dr. Dena Evans**, Assistant Professor, presented a poster at this years' National ATI conference in Florida from April 19-22, 2011. The poster was titled: Animosity, Antagonism and Avatars: Teaching Conflict Management in Second Life.<sup>®</sup>

**Mrs. Joyce Beard**, Clinical Assistant Professor, and **Mrs. Jennifer Johnson**, Assistant Professor, presented at the annual school nurse conference sponsored by SR-AHEC on January 25, 2011. The topic of the presentation focused on emergent issues that school nurses face.

**Mrs. Joyce Beard**, Clinical Assistant Professor, and **Mrs. Jennifer Johnson**, Assistant Professor, presented at UNCP's Annual Digital Content Consortium on April 16, 2011. This conference is free for educators across the State focusing on teaching with technology. The presentation was called "21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching: Engaging Students Through the use of Digital Storytelling".

**Mrs. Joyce Stanley and Mrs. Jennifer Twaddell**, Assistant Professors, were awarded tenure in August 2010. Both began working at UNCP in August 2004 and work with both RN-BSN and pre-licensure students. Congratulations!

**Dr. Peg Trueman**, Assistant Professor, received the Faculty Spirit of Nursing Award at the 2011 Pinning and Recognition Ceremony. This award is chosen by the students and given to a member of the faculty who inspires and exemplifies teaching excellence and professional nursing.

## CLASS NOTES AND NEWS

### Noteworthy Students

The following student made the Chancellor's List during the Fall 2010 semester: **Santana Locklear Ammons**. In order to qualify for the Chancellor's List, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.7 (out of 4.0) while taking at least 15 semester hours. The following students made the Honors List during the Fall 2010 semester: **Megan Brister, Ashley Estevez, Susana Lopez, and Aimee Mack**. To qualify for the Honors List, a student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 while taking at least 12 semester hours. ([http://www.uncp.edu/news/2011/honors\\_list\\_dec\\_2010.htm](http://www.uncp.edu/news/2011/honors_list_dec_2010.htm))

### Mother and Daughter Graduate Together

Few stories were more remarkable than that of **Cassie and Tamra Henderson**, who live in nearby Shannon. Mother and daughter graduated together Saturday with degrees in nursing. They took many general education classes together.

"She's the better student," Cassie Henderson said of her daughter.

"She was working full time with a family," Tamra Henderson said of her mother, who is a Registered Nurse at the Robeson County Health Department.



"We did not know if we would finish together, but this is great," Cassie Henderson said. "I am really proud of my daughter, who I have been able to watch blossom into a professional nurse."

### **Junior Student Internships**

Southeastern Regional Medical Center is working with UNCP Department of Nursing for the second year to offer a critical care internship. Seven rising seniors will be participating including: **Faith-Marie Hasz, Ronnie Strickland, Jennifer Joyce, Molly Stutts, Jamie Martinez, Joyce Kiermayr, and Michelle Noell.**

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center is also offering internships this summer. Participants include **Stacy Cohen** and **Amy Ewald.**

### **Noteworthy Alumni**

**Jessica Bell**, Class of 2007, completed her master's degree in nursing and ability to sit for her nurse practitioner certification from East Carolina University in May.

**Jason Godaire**, Class of 2007, has accepted the position as Nurse Manager for Psychiatry at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. His promotion was effective July 2010. Great Job, Jason!

**Elizabeth Hodgin**, Class of 2011, has been accepted into the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Ernestine Johnson**, Class of December 2010, has been accepted into the Family Nurse Practitioner program at UNC-Wilmington.

**Ann-Marie Locklear-Hunt**, Class of 2007, graduated in May from UNC- Wilmington with her master's degree and the ability to sit for family nurse practitioner certification.

**Quawanna Locklear**, Class of 2008, was accepted to the Certified Registered Nurse (CRNA) program at Carolinas Medical Center and UNC-Charlotte.

**Teresa Synowiez**, Class of December 2010, has been accepted into the MSN program at UNC-Greensboro; she will study nursing education.

The next Alumni Association meeting will be held June 2011. Please contact Mrs. Mēki Graham for more information.

***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](mailto:nursing@uncp.edu) or via phone at 521-6522.

## **EVENTS AND LINKS – TAKE NOTE!**

### **Dates to Remember**

June 6-10, 2011 – New Pre-licensure BSN Student Orientation

June 29, 2011 – Classes begin for Pre-licensure BSN Class of 2013