Faculty Present at Bahamas Symposium

Four nursing faculty were invited to Freeport, Bahamas, courtesy of Dr. Mary DeBartolo, a former SU nursing faculty member who now resides there, to offer a one-day symposium for nurses and other health care professionals.

Dr. Danielle McDowell spoke on the topic of Evidence-Based Practice, Dr. Laura Rockelli addressed Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment for Childhood Trauma and Abuse, Michelle Banard presented on the topic of Intimate Partner Violence, and Dr. Mary DeBartolo did a presentation on Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care. Over 120 healthcare professionals from both Freeport and Nassau attended the symposium, which was organized by DeBartolo in conjunction with Grand Bahama Health Services.

While visiting the area, the faculty also toured the local hospital in Freeport, Rural Memorial Hospital, to explore the possibility of a student travel abroad experience that kept us busy in 2010-2011:

• Grand opening our state-of-the-art medical simulation center.
• The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) received final approval by the Middle States Association. The first doctoral program at SU will begin in fall 2012!
• The Eastern Shore Faculty Academy and Mentoring Initiative is underway under the guidance of Dr. Tina Brown, Katie Hinderer, Judy Jarosinski, Brenda Minter, and Lisa Seldomridge. Funded by a $376,986 MHEC NSF-2 grant, this project will focus on preparing expert nurses to become skilled part-time faculty. Working with faculty from Chesapeake College and Sejourner-Douglass College, the academy will be conducted twice per year. Over the three-year grant period, at least 56 part-time faculty are expected to complete the academy and be available to teach for the partner schools.
• Development of cutting-edge expertise among our faculty will be easier as a result of a $25,000 grant from the National Student Nurses Association in conjunction with the Maryland Hospital Association. Dr. Laurie Rockelli will become expert in health policy, while Dr. Judy Jarosinski develops proficiency in geriatrics and genomics, and Dr. Rita Nutt will build on her solid evidence-based practice background by attending workshops and symposia. This expertise will be part of the D.N.P. program.
• CareFirst Blue Cross awarded SU one $50,000 scholarship for a master’s student enrolling for full-time study in the Clinical Nurse Educator track. The recipient, Jennifer Hart, will pursue a position in nursing education in Maryland or Virginia upon graduation.
• Scholarships for second B.S. students were obtained from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Careers in Nursing program for eight second-B.S. students ($10,000 per student). This program aims to increase the number of graduates of accelerated second-bachelor’s degree from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged groups. SU has received this grant three years in a row and is one of only 52 schools nationwide to receive funding for 2011. SU will increase enrollment in its accelerated second-bachelor’s degree program to 32 students.
• Continued track record of success on NCLEX-RN, SU achieved the highest three-year average pass rate of all baccalaureate schools in Maryland and at 93.45 percent.
• Growth in nursing majors continues making us the largest major at the university.
• Faculty awards. The Pi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International gave its Outstanding Dissertation award to Dr. Katie Hinderer in 2011 and to Dr. Rita Nutt in 2010.
• Study abroad trips to Ecuador in January 2011 with Dr. Vonn Brown focused on culture and health care practices; a trip to Tanzania is planned for January 2012 with Dr. Tina Brown-Red and Dr. Karin Johnson.
• National recognition for SU Student Nurses’ Association was received for nine years of success in adoption of their resolutions at the NSNA conference. Member Anna Kinghart (SU-2011) received the Spirit of Nursing Award from the U.S. Army.
• Student research presentations by Raulina Simango (SU-2011) with advisor Dr. Tina Brown at the National Council on Undergraduate Research held in Ithaca, NY in 2011. All students enrolled in Dr. Thea McDowell’s Best Practices for Nursing Success course displayed their evidence-base practice posters in December 2010 and May 2011. These posters currently grace the second floor of Devillius Hall.
• New faces in the department: Kerry Palakian, M.A., CRNE who will teach undergraduate and graduate health assessment, as well as the other nurse practitioners, management, and Thalia VanOot/Will-May who will oversee the operations at the new Medical Simulation Center. Tysha Staten has also joined the department as the new Program Management Specialist.

We wish them both well in their retirement although they will be sorely missed!
PRESENTATIONS

- Dr. Mary Parsons & Kirsten Wibeck presented at the Simulation in Healthcare Conference in March 2011 in Orlando, FL. The title of their podium presentation was: ‘The Use of Simulated Role Play for Increasing Child Abuse Awareness.’
- Dr. Debra Webster presented at the MNA conference in Annapolis, MD in October 2010. The topic was: Guided Reflection and Creativity: Helping Students to Provide Empathetic Care for Individuals with Mental Illness.
- Dr. Mary Parsons presented a poster at the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculty Conference in Albuquerque, NM, in April 2011. It was titled: ‘An Internship Option: Core Curriculum Disease Process in Women.’
- Dr. Rita Nutt presented her doctoral research at the annual AWHONN national convention last fall in Las Vegas, NV. It was titled: ‘The Predictive Value of Second Trimester Blood Pressures on the Risk of Preeclampsia.’

PUBLICATIONS


OTHER FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Mary DiBartolo has joined the Copper Ridge Institute as a core faculty member and Resident Nurse Educator for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Copper Ridge Institute, based in Sykesville, MD, is a not-for-profit dementia education and research organization at the forefront of scientific research related to the treatment and care of those with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. She is responsible for providing dementia care education and on-site training to long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospices, and other related organizations on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that offer care to patients with dementia.

Dr. Tina Brown was married on June 25 to Darren Reid. The wedding was held at Salisbury University, and the happy couple honeymooned on a cruise to the Western Caribbean. Congratulations to Dr. Tina Brown Reid!

CLASS NOTES

1984 Sharon Malone passed the ANCC certification for Nurse Executive last fall. She is continues her ongoing employment at Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) where she is the director of nursing resources.

1998 & 2006 Gideon LaClair (‘98) and Patty Morales (‘06), graduates of the B.S. program, returned from a mission trip to Managua, Nicaragua, this June with LaMerced, a nonprofit organization based in Salisbury. For the past four years, this group—which includes physicians and various health care professionals—has provided plastic surgery, orthopedic procedures as well as health education to those in need. Gideon works as a sales representative for Zimmer, an implant/prosthesis manufacturer who donated prosthetic devices for the mission; he is married with three children and lives in Denton, MD. Patty is married with four children and works at PRMC in the ER; she is currently pursuing her master’s in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at SU.

1999 Jill Erickson currently works part time at Johns Hopkins Hospital in pediatrics. She is married, has two children and lives in Odenton, MD.

2005 Sarah (Moore) Evans is relocating back to Salisbury after living in Tampa, FL. She is married and gave birth to a baby boy in August 2010. She is currently doing her residency program at University of Florida.

2008 Rosalyn Marcus is now a certified diabetes educator and works as an education specialist at the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore at the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center.

2007 Matthew Brown is currently working on a medical surgical unit at Shirley Hospital in Washington, D.C. On August 28, 2010, he married Stephanie Mortimer and they are living in Atlanta, GA.

Global Offerings Increase in the Nursing Department

What does the health care system in Ecuador offer? How do Ecuadorians stay healthy? How do traditional health practices blend with Western medicine? A group of 10 women traveled from Salisbury University to Guayaquil, Ecuador, in order to answer these and other questions. The three-credit course, Cultural Considerations in Health and Wellness, was offered over a 12-day period in January 2011. Drs. Vornie Brown and Karin Johnson took a group of predominately undergraduate nursing students on this trip. Highlights of the experience included walking tours of Guayaquil and Guayaquil; a hike in the Cañar national park; a visit to the community of Saraguro, including a visit to the shaman, teaching sessions at the CEDEI school; and a day with the Department of Nursing at University of Cuenca. The purpose of the course was to facilitate cultural competence since nurses continue to serve an increasing multicultural group of patients. Ecuadorians value family. Schools close and businesses shut their doors at lunchtime so families can have a meal together. Rural health care centers include a “family” chart rather than individual charts. Environmental and mental health issues are systematically addressed by rural, health-promoting clinics. Medicinal plants and alternative practices are often used by both rural and urban Ecuadorians.

Anyone interested in spending a busy two weeks in Ecuador in 2013 may contact Dr. Vornie Brown at 410-548-4784. This course is open to graduate students and RNs as well.

Other ongoing global offerings by the department include continuing experiences in Tanzania and China. Dr. Tina Brown will once again be taking a group of students to Tanzania in January 2012. This two-week experience in and around Arusha involves HIV/AIDS education, as well as experiences sustained agriculture. If interested in this experience, contact Dr. Tina Brown at 410-548-6408 or tbrown@salisbury.edu. Although a planned trip to China for May 2011 was canceled due to a lack of enrollment, Dr. Mary DiBartolo is still planning to offer this experience again in May 2013. This experience includes exposure to Traditional Chinese medicine practices and other healthcare settings in China. Graduates, students, alumni, and RNs are welcome. Please contact her at demcdowell@salisbury.edu or 410-548-5562.