Greetings from the Chair
by Dr. Susan Battistoni

The Department of Nursing has had another busy and exciting year.

Enrollment has doubled in the last 10 years, increasing from 210 nursing and pre-nursing majors in 1995 to over 400 in fall 2004. Graduate enrollments are on the rise as well with 27 master's level students. This past year, there were a total of 78 bachelor's degree graduates (including two RN-B.S. graduates), in addition to five M.S. graduates who completed the Family Nurse Practitioner Track. Furthermore, the applicant pool for this year's upcoming junior class was the largest in our history with 185 applicants (first-degree and second-degree tracks combined) for 88 seats.

Curricular changes are in full swing for RNs with an associate's degree who wish to obtain the bachelor's degree. The revised RN-B.S. plan now recognizes their education and expertise. More information is available at www.salisbury.edu/Schools/Henson/NursingDept.html.

There have also been some changes in faculty within the Department. Dr. Elizabeth Rankin, long-time faculty member at SU (and University of Maryland, Baltimore prior) retired in December 2004. Dr. Mary DeLashmutt and Dr. Kathleen Lanigan both relocated from the area. We will miss them and their contributions to the department.

Other faculty news includes the hiring of new faculty and the promotion in rank of current faculty. Debra Webster, with her expertise in psychiatric nursing, came on board in January 2004, and Rita Nutt, whose specialty is maternity nursing, will be joining us this coming fall. We also are happy to welcome a new full-time contractual faculty—Michelle Landy, as well as seasoned SU clinical faculty Margaret (Peggy) Mitchell and Katherine (Katie) Green for the upcoming year. Dr. Lisa Seldomridge was promoted to full professor and Dr. Mary DiBartolo was promoted to associate professor.

Also impressive are the many published articles (with many others in press) and presentations of our faculty (see "Faculty News" for details). Just "Google" their names and you will be pleased to discover the work of SU's nursing faculty.

In last year's newsletter, we told you of our plans to reframe class graduation pictures as part of our move from Power to Devilbiss Hall. Thanks for the many generous donations so far. If you'd like to make a contribution to this project or other departmental needs, you may still do so (see below).

We hope this finds you well and happily working in the profession! Until next time …

You Can Make A Difference

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Department of Nursing may send their tax-deductible contribution to:
Salisbury University Foundation, P.O. Box 2655, Salisbury, Maryland 21802

Please make check payable to: SU Foundation—Department of Nursing

Thank you for your support!

Congressman Ben Cardin Visits

Democratic Congressman Benjamin Cardin, representative of the 3rd district in Maryland who will be entering the Maryland Senate race in 2006, paid a special visit to the Eastern Shore last October and among his stops was the Department of Nursing at Salisbury University. After walking the University campus and a brief tour of the department—complete with a demonstration of "Sim Man"—Cardin met with Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Henson School Dean Dr. Tom Jones, Department Chair Dr. Susan Battistoni, as well as other faculty and student representatives to discuss some of the critical issues in nursing, including the national shortage of nurses and nursing faculty amidst increasing enrollments.

Faculty News

Presentations

• Dr. Lisa Seldomridge & Dr. Cathy Walsh presented a poster “Addressing the Challenges of Grade Inflation Using Grading Rubrics” at the State of the Science Conference in Washington, D.C., October, 2004.

• Dr. Karin Johnson was invited to present at the American Public Health Association conference in Washington, D.C., on November 8, 2004, on the topic of “Drugs and the Internet.”

• Dr. Thea McDowell presented this past June at the National Symposium on Health Science Distance Education held at Creighton University Medical Center School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in Omaha, Nebraska. The topic was “Learning Strategies, Technology, Pedagogy: Where to Start in Online Education.”
FACULTY NEWS continued

PRESENTATIONS

• Dr. Cathy Walsh & Dr. Lisa Seldomridge
  were invited to the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute
  meeting in Atlantic City, NJ in July 2005 for a podium presentation
  “Grade Inflation in Faculty-Supervised Clinical Courses.”

• Dr. Lisa Seldomridge
  also presented a poster (with Tracy Tull and Jill Hickman from
  Nanticoke Memorial Hospital) at the Drexel University Institute
  meeting “Growing Confidence and Competence Through
  Narratives: A Program for New Graduates at a Small, Rural
  Community Hospital.”

PUBLICATIONS

  Clinical grades: Upward bound. Journal of Nursing Education, 44(4),
  162-168.

  A profile of accelerated second bachelor’s nursing students. Nurse
  Educator, 30(2), 65-68.

  Issues in critical thinking: Measurement in advanced practice students.
  Nurse Educator, 30(4), 139-149.

  A different kind of clinical experience: Poverty up close and personal.
  Nurse Educator, 30(4), 143-149.

  A review of intervention studies to promote NCLEX-RN success of
  baccalaureate students. Nurse Educator, 30(4), 166-171.

• Dr. Thea McDowell
  was invited to review three chapters on antibiotic therapy for the text
  Pharmacology: Connections to Nursing Practice to be published this year
  by Prentice-Hall. She was also a co-author with M.E. Mills in a chapter
  titled, “Academic Programs” published in Online Health Science
  Education: Development and Implementation (2005), N. Jairith, ED.

• Dr. Edna Quinn
  Professor Emeritus, was a recent contributor to Magill’s Literary Annual
  (2005), which offers annual essay reviews of 200 outstanding books
  published in the U.S.

PERSONAL NOTE

Wedding bells were ringing for Dr. Ruth Carroll in June 2005
when she married long-time (and recently retired) SU arts professor
and former associate provost, Dr. Kent Kimmell.

CLASS NOTES

1987

Pam Stetina completed her master’s in nursing administration at the
University of Phoenix in 1996 and is currently living in Texas and is
working as an assistant professor of nursing at Texas A & M University—
Corpus Christi. She is currently in the process of completing her Ph.D. at
Texas Women’s University; the topic of her dissertation is the effect of
hysterectomy on quality of life of Hispanic and Caucasian women. She is
married to Frank Stetina who also graduated from Salisbury University with
a degree in geography.

1988

Debra (Slacum) Webster has joined the nursing faculty at SU. After
receiving her M.S.N. in 1994, she has worked at Chesapeake Youth Center
and PRMC before joining the faculty in January. She has been accepted to
start the doctoral program at Wilmington College this fall.

1989

Connie (Davis) Johnson completed her M.S.N. at SU (FNP track) with a
capstone project titled, “The Impact of Diabetes Self-Management
Education on Specific Diabetes Indicators.”

1991

Penny (Justice) Makuchal was named one of the top 39 educators in the
nation. She was one of two Maryland educators to receive honorable
mention as a member of the USA Today 2004 All-USA Teacher Team.
Recently completing her Ph.D., she currently works at the Worcester
County Technology and Career Center and is a school nurse consultant for
all 14 Worcester County public schools. Penny completed her master’s
degree at Salisbury University in 1997 with a Home Health Clinical
Specialist Concentration. She lives in Stockton, MD, with her husband,
Denny, and a daughter, Maranda.

Margaret (Peggy) Mitchell, who also completed her M.S.N. at Salisbury
in 2000, has come on board as a full-time nursing faculty member. Peggy
has also worked at Coastal Hospice as a pain management consultant, in
addition to her part-time position as the department’s Nursing Resource
Lab coordinator.

2001

Donald Clayton completed the master’s program (FNP track) at Salisbury
University this past December. The title of his capstone project was
“Purchase of Prescription Medication from Abroad.”

Erica (Schwartz) Disharoon graduated from SU’s master’s program
(FNP track) after successful completion of her capstone project, “Alcohol
Withdrawal: A Guide for Assessing and Managing the Alcohol Withdrawal
Patient.”

2002

Cynthia Knight graduated from the master’s program at SU (FNP track)
this past December after successful defense of her capstone project where
she created an informational packet addressing sports injuries.

SAD NEWS

Leslie Cimetta-Bowman (B.S.N. 2000, M.S.N.-/FNP track 2003) passed
away last fall.

Send Us Your YOUR News!

E-mail:  Dr. Thea McDowell, demcdowell@salisbury.edu
Dr. Mary DiBartolo, medibartolo@salisbury.edu
Visit:  www.salisbury.edu/schools/Henson/nursingdept/