

## Fond Farewell

Dr. Susan Battistoni, associate professor of nursing, who joined the faculty of Salisbury State College in 1983, has retired as of this past June. In addition to serving as chair of the Department of Nursing from August 2002-August 2008, highlights of her accomplishments during her time at SU include: leading the department through two very successful accreditation visits receiving the maximum period of accreditation for the bachelor's and master's programs; overseeing the renovations of the second floor of Devilbiss Hall and subsequent move of the department from then Power Professional Building to Devilbiss Hall; receiving the largest gift in University history in 2006: \$5.3 million to establish the Lucy Tull Scholarship Program for students with financial need; and obtaining \$261,000 from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to expand the master's in nursing to include a Clinical Nurse Educator Track and development of the RN-to-M.S. Track. In 2003, she was named a fellow in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Leadership for Academic Nursing program; and in 2009, she received the Lucy Tull Distinguished Faculty Award. She has also been active with community organizations including Coastal Hospice, the Community Foundation and Wicomico County Public Schools.

In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate students in the classroom, Dr. Battistoni also supervises them in clinical practice. She consistently received high praise from students for her expertise, sense of humor, kindness as well as her ability to make students feel comfortable, especially when they are new to a clinical setting.

Another longtime member of the Department of Nursing is leaving. Eleanor Morris, Program Management Specialist, retires as of September 1. After working for two years in the Admissions Office when arriving at SU in 1982, she came to work in nursing and stayed a mere 28 years. Whenever students stopped by her office, they could be assured of a friendly greeting and helpful advice.

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

## Faculty Present at Bahamas Symposium



Bahamas Symposium

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

Dr. Dorothea McDowell spoke on the topic of Evidence-Based Practice, Dr. Laurie Rockelli addressed Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment for Childhood Trauma and Abuse, Dr. Michele Bracken presented on the topic of Intimate Partner Violence, and, Dr. Mary DiBartolo did a presentation on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care. Over 120 health care professionals from both Freeport and Nassau attended the seminar, which was organized by Delashmutt in conjunction with Grand Bahama Health Services.

While visiting the area, the faculty also toured the local hospital in Freeport, Rand Memorial Hospital, to explore the possibility of a student travel abroad experience in maternity.

# Salisbury University

## NURSING NOTES

SUMMER 2011

### GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Lisa Seldomridge

#### SU Nursing Department – A Center of Excellence!

This past academic year has been full of examples of excellence in faculty scholarship, curriculum development, expanding resources for student learning and superior performance of our students. Here are some of the activities that kept us busy in 2010-2011:

- **Grand opening our state-of-the-science Medical Simulation Center.**

Funded through a \$937,000 grant from the Maryland Hospital Association Who Will Care initiative and generous support from the University and the Henson School of Science and Technology, the 4,800-square-foot Sim Center will use high-fidelity human patient simulators to teach students how to care for clients in the specialties of labor/delivery, high-risk newborn and critically ill children. Standardized patients (trained, paid actors) will help students learn how to interact more effectively with clients with psych/mental health conditions. The Sim Center activities will support the expansion of the second B.S. program, be used for multi-professional learning and ultimately be used for training health professionals in the region. The center is slated to open in fall 2011 with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 1, 2011.

- **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!

Led by Dr. Molly Parsons, the program will be open to advanced practice nurses who already hold a master's degree and wish to complete the D.N.P. with a cohort over a three-year period. Designed for working professionals, the 38-credit program may be completed in three years with students taking six credits per semester. The first SU doctoral degrees will be conferred in 2015!

- **The Eastern Shore Faculty Academy and Mentoring Initiative** is underway under the guidance of Drs. Tina Brown, Katie Hinderer, Judy Jarosinski, Brenda Mister and Lisa Seldomridge. Funded by a \$376,498 MHEC NSP-2 grant, this project will focus on preparing expert nurses to become skilled part-time clinical faculty. Working with faculty from Chesapeake College and Sojourner-Douglass College, the academy will be conducted twice per year. Over the three-year grant period, at least 36 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 genetics and genomics, and Dr. Rita Nutt will build on her solid evidence-based

practice background by attending workshops and symposia. This expertise will be put to use in the D.N.P. program.

- **CareFirst Blue-Cross awarded SU one \$80,000 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 under-represented 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 program to 32 students.

- **Continued track record of success on NCLEX-RN.** SU holds the highest three-year average pass rate of all baccalaureate schools in Maryland at 95.45 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. Vonnie Brown focused on culture and health care practices; a trip to Tanzania is planned for January 2012 with Dr. Tina Brown-Reid 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 Rinehart (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-based practice posters in December 2010 and May 2011. These posters currently grace the second floor of Devilbiss Hall.

- **New faces in the department:** Kerry Palakanis, M.S., CRNP, who will teach undergraduate and graduate health assessment, as well as the other nurse practitioner management courses, and Thalia VanOpstall-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'd love to hear what is happening with you! Please send your news items to [dr.marydibartolo@salisbury.edu](mailto:dr.marydibartolo@salisbury.edu) or to me at [laseldomridge@salisbury.edu](mailto:laseldomridge@salisbury.edu).

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# FACULTY NEWS

## PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Mary Parsons & Kirsten Wiberg\*** 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*. [\*Kirsten Wiberg – 2005 B.S. (Nursing) & 2010 M.S. graduate from Salisbury University in Clinical Nurse Educator Track.]
- **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: Cardiovascular Disease Prevention 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 Development of Preeclampsia*. She also received the Outstanding Research Paper Award at the convention.
- **Dr. Judith Jarosinski** presented on the topic of: *Correlates of Post Partum Depression in Diverse, Low-income Women: A Quantitative/Qualitative Perspective*, at the APNA annual convention held last October in Louisville, KY.
- **Drs. Katie Hinderer & Thea McDowell** presented at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute (DUNEI) held in Atlantic City, NJ, from June 27-30. The title of their podium presentation was: *West Meets East: Increasing Diversity Education Through Short-Term Study Abroad Programs*.
- **Dr. William Campbell** also displayed a poster at DUNEI titled: *Using a Situation Paper in Pharmacology Class as a Critical Thinking Exercise and as Reinforcement of Pharmacology Content*.
- **Drs. Laurie Rockelli & Debra Webster** presented at the Association of Standardized Patient Educators Conference held June 5-8 in Nashville, TN. It was titled: *Psychiatric Nursing Research Using Standardized Patients to Teach Communication Skills*. They also presented a poster titled: *An Innovative Approach to Teaching Communication and Assessment Skills: Using Standardized Patients to Portray Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*.
- **Drs. Laurie Rockelli, Debra Webster & Lisa Seldomridge** also presented a poster at the Association of Standardized Patient Educators Conference. It was titled: *Take One: Lessons Learned from the Implementation of a Standardized Patient Experience for Psychiatric Nursing Students*.
- **Dr. Katie Hinderer** presented a poster at the National Institute of Nursing Research Conference held in Bethesda, MD, August 10-12. The title of the poster was: *End-of-life Decision-Making Among Patients and their Proxies*.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Cottingham, S.\*, DiBartolo, M.C., Battistoni, S., & Brown, T.** (2011). Partners in Nursing: A mentoring initiative to enhance nurse retention. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 32(4), 250-255. [\*Stacy Cottingham – 1993 B.S. (Nursing) & 2008 M.S. in Nursing Administration (article based on required capstone project)]
- **Campbell, W.T., & Benn, S.\*** (2011). Individualizing a capstone project: A cruise ship nurse creates a brochure about the Norwalk virus. *Nurse Educator*, 36(1), 25-30. [\*Sonja Benn – 2001 B.S. in Nursing & 2008 M.S. in Family Nurse Practitioner Track (article based on required capstone project)]
- **Campbell, W.T.** (2011). Who gets your vote for the Father of Nursing? *American Nurse Today Online*, 6(4).
- **Campbell, W.T.** (2011). Smallpox in Delaware: Nurses on the frontlines! *Delaware Nurses Association Reporter*, 36(1), 14.
- **DiBartolo, M.C., & Walsh, C.M.** (2010). Desperate times call for desperate measures: Where are we in addressing academic dishonesty? [Guest Editorial]. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 49(10), 543.
- **Jarosinski, J., & Heinrich, C.** (2010). Standing in their shoes: Student immersion in the community using service learning with at-risk teens. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 31, 288-297.
- Von Rueden, K.T., **Hinderer, K.A.**, McQuillan, K.A., Murray, M., Logan, T., Kramer, B., Gilmore, R., & Friedmann, E. (2010). Secondary traumatic stress in trauma nurses: Prevalence and exposure, coping, and personal/environmental characteristics. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*, 17(4), 191-200.

## OTHER FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Mary DiBartolo** has joined the Copper Ridge Institute as a core faculty member and Requard 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 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 La Merced, 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. After starting a nurse practitioner program at University of Tampa, she has enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at SU as of this past spring.

2007

**Matthew Brown** is currently working on a medical surgical unit at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. On August 28, 2010, he married Stephanie Mortimer and they are living in Arlington, VA.

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.

2008

**Katie Lawrence** graduated this past May from Yale University's master's program in nurse midwifery and recently accepted a midwifery position in the coastal Delaware area where she will be providing well-woman gynecology and family planning, as well as, prenatal, labor and birth, postpartum, and primary care.



# 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 Cuenca, 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. Vonnie Brown and Karin Johnson took a group of predominately undergraduate nursing students on this trip.

Highlights of the experience included walking tours of Gualaceo and Guayaquil; a hike in the Cajas national park; a weekend 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. Vonnie 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 with sustainable agriculture. If interested in this experience, contact Dr. Tina Brown at 410-548-6408 or [tpbrown@salisbury.edu](mailto:tpbrown@salisbury.edu). Although a planned trip to China for May 2011 was canceled due to a lack of enrollment, Dr. Dorothea McDowell is still planning to offer the experience again in May 2013. This experience includes exposure to Traditional Chinese Medicine practices and other health care settings in China. Graduates students, alumni and RNs are welcome. Please contact her at [demcdowell@salisbury.edu](mailto:demcdowell@salisbury.edu) or 410-548-5562.