

Salisbury University

NURSING NOTES

SUMMER 2006

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

by Dr. Susan Battistoni

If change is good, the Department of Nursing is certainly in good shape because there continues to be changes in a variety of areas.

First, some faculty announcements ... Congratulations to William Campbell who completed his doctorate at the University of Delaware and was promoted to assistant professor. His research involved the examination of current admissions standards and progression of first-degree students in our program. Ruth Carroll, Ph.D., CS-P, RN retired in January after 10 years on the faculty at SU. Nancy (Betsy) Drewer, M.Ed., M.S., CRNP also retired in July after 28 years of teaching at SU. Both of these dedicated faculty members contributed to the excellence for which our nursing program is known and enabled both undergraduate and graduate students to excel as practitioners in nursing. Joining the faculty this fall is a 1986 graduate of our bachelor's program, Laurie Rockelli, M.S., APRN, BC, who is also a doctoral candidate at University of Maryland School of Nursing. She brings many years of expertise in child and adolescent psychiatric nursing. Katherine Green, M.S.N., RN, CCRN, now in a full-time tenure track faculty position, is also pursuing doctoral study at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and brings a strong background in critical care nursing.

Another area of change is in the curriculum. Based on student

and alumni feedback, we created a new course, NURS 312 - Introduction to Professional Nursing Practice, to replace NURS 309 - Foundations and NURS 322 - Wellness. This modified course will be offered starting this fall and combines the best features of both. There will be five smaller sections, increased pharmacology content, as well as some integrated NURS 311 clinical skills to minimize the marathon days in the Adult Health clinical course. We are also offering a pharmacology elective this fall for students.

Nursing enrollment remained high with 428 undergraduate and 27 graduate students in 2005-2006.

There were 87 baccalaureate and seven master's degrees awarded in 2005-2006.

Lambda Eta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Nursing Honor Society (STTI) remains active with yearly educational events and scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate nursing students. I encourage those of you who were inducted into Lambda Eta to renew your membership and stay active in the chapter to help us continue to support nursing education and practice. A research conference is being planned for March 2007 in Ocean City and the Biennial International Convention will be held in Baltimore in November 2007. Now is the time to renew your membership. Check out the membership area at www.nursingsociety.org.

Until next time ...



(From left) Dr. Thea McDowell, Christine Pizzillo, Jovonne Chandler, Megan Dukes, Christine Wagner, Dr. Vonnie Brown, Teresa Smith, Dr. Karin Johnson and Professor Betsy Drewer

SU Nursing Travels to Tanzania

An adventurous group of 13 University nursing students, faculty, alumni and friends traveled with Global Service Corps to Tanzania, West Africa, in January 2006 to teach HIV/AIDS awareness classes in villages surrounding the city of Arusha. In addition to teaching classes, the group also visited hospitals and clinics to see how the health care system works in this poverty stricken area. Most nurses there have no more than a high school education through which a basic nursing certificate is earned. The group was impressed with their counterpart nurses there and what they are able to accomplish with such limited resources. Dr. Voncelia Brown of the SU Nursing Department stated that "the United States has a global responsibility to improve health care in the rest of world, in addition to doing more with what we have here."

"It was a very humbling experience" said recent first-degree program graduate Christine Wagner. "Tanzania is one of the five poorest countries in the world. I was struck by how little is really needed to live and I felt selfish about all I have back home."

Another current second-degree student, Megan Dukes, commented that "it is much worse than what you see on TV ... I met a 28-year old widow who was dying of AIDS while trying to raise two kids in a one-bedroom plywood shack she shared with her mother-in-law and several nieces and

nephews." However she added that the educational efforts of this volunteer group was very much appreciated; everyone who attended was a willing, eager participant interested in learning.

Alumna Jeri Riddick (B.S., '94, M.S. '01) found the experience to be very moving. She stated that "what made it exceptional was the opportunity to live with a Tanzanian family and to work closely with our Tanzanian counterparts." She also felt that the course work she completed at SU (community, epidemiology, family) was instrumental in her ability to fully appreciate the African experience.

The trip also offered participants the opportunity to take lessons in Swahili and to learn about Tanzanian culture. Participants spent their first week in a hostel where they met travelers from around the globe. The second week each participant lived with a Tanzanian family and truly experienced their way of life. SU students and faculty also learned about the natural wonders of the area and took in some sights, including the Ngorogoro Crater and Lake Manyara national parks.

Members of the faculty are interested in doing similar trips in the future and would welcome alumni involvement. Anyone interested in participating or in organizing a trip should contact Dr. Karin Johnson, Dr. Vonnie Brown or Dr. Dorothea McDowell.

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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!

FACULTY NEWS

PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. William Campbell** presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing's annual convention in November 2005. The topic: "Adolescent Project: An Alternative Pediatric Clinical Experience."
- **Dr. Cathy Walsh, Dr. Karen Badros and Dr. Lisa Seldomridge** presented on the topic of "Evaluating Student Performance in Precepted Clinical Experiences" at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute's annual conference held in Providence, RI, June 2006.
- **Dr. Karen Badros, Dr. Lisa Seldomridge and Dr. Cathy Walsh** presented a poster titled, "Tracking Critical Thinking in Graduate Nursing Students" at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute's annual conference held in Providence, RI, June 2006.
- **Dr. Lisa Seldomridge and Dr. Cathy Walsh** also presented a poster titled "Creating a Practical Tool for Preceptors to Evaluate Clinical Performance" at the same Drexel University Conference this past June.
- **Professor Katie Green** presented on the topic of "Brief Grief: Critical Care Nurses and Death" at the National Teaching Institute of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses in Anaheim, CA, in May 2006. She also presented locally in May at the annual conference of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses—Delmarva Chapter.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Seldomridge, L.A., & Walsh, C.M.** (2006). Evaluating student performance in undergraduate preceptorships. *Journal of Nursing Education, 45*(5), 169-176.
- **Walsh, C.M. & Seldomridge, L.A.** (2006). Critical thinking: Back to square two. *Journal of Nursing Education, 45*(6), 212-219.
- **Seldomridge, L.A. & Walsh, C.M.** (2006). Measuring critical thinking in graduate education: What do we know? *Nurse Educator, 31*(3), 132-137.
- **DiBartolo, M.C.** (2006). Careful hand feeding: A reasonable alternative to PEG tube placement in persons with dementia. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 32*(5), 25-33.

Nursing Graduation Photos Now Hang Proudly in Devilbiss Hall

Thanks to the many generous contributions by SU nursing alumni and faculty, the nursing graduation photos are nicely displayed in the second floor of Devilbiss Hall. The pictures (beginning with the spring/fall classes of 1983) that once hung in our old digs at Power Professional Building have since been digitally "refurbished" where necessary and uniformly reframed to preserve them for years to come. Some were even added to the collection as alumni provided "long-lost" photos to add to the display. The pictures certainly have drawn the attention of both current nursing students as well as passers-by from other majors who stop to admire the photos.

While this first phase of the "Save the Pictures" initiative is behind us, we would like to complete the set so to speak and we are missing graduation pictures from a few select cohorts. They are:

**Spring 1989, Fall 1992, Fall 1993, Fall 1994,
Fall 1995, Fall 1996, Fall 1997**

If any alumni have any one of these pictures, please contact Dr. Mary DiBartolo at 410-543-6403 or by e-mail at mcdbartolo@salisbury.edu. The original photo can be dropped by the department or it can be mailed to Dr. DiBartolo who will then scan a copy and return the original. In some cases, alumni have preferred an 8" x 10" replacement to be returned instead of the larger photo 11" x 14" which we keep to frame.

All alumni are invited to stop by to catch a glimpse of their graduating class and those from other past cohorts. As this will be an ongoing project with each graduating class to follow, we are still accepting donations. Any funds received beyond the ongoing framing costs will be used for skills lab equipment or other educational resources for our current students. To make a tax-deductible contribution, please make check payable to SU Foundation—Department of Nursing and mail to Salisbury University Foundation, P.O. Box 2655, Salisbury, Maryland 21802.

Thanks again to all those who helped us with either their donations and/or pictures to honor the graduates who carry on the fine tradition of SU nursing!

CLASS NOTES

1984

Sharon (Lankford) Hampp graduated from Catholic University Law School in May 2005 with the Juris Doctor and recently passed the Maryland bar exam. She works full time in regulatory affairs at the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. She has a 13-year-old son David and lives in Olney, MD, with her husband Charlie.

1985

Eileen (Coady) Pummer works as a clinical coordinator in quality management at the John Muir Mount Diablo Health System in Walnut Creek, CA. She is working on a master's degree in nursing at California State University and her interest is health promotion, specifically medication management trends. She is married and has three children: Drew, Bryce and Darcy.

1996

Connie Miller is a family nurse practitioner and currently works as director for Cheyenne Crossroads Clinic, a federally-funded health center for the homeless. She also works at the Laramie County Detention Center in Cheyenne, WY, and is a certified diabetes educator. Last year, Connie was presented the Local Hero Award from the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network, recognized for her creative and visionary efforts that positively affect the health and quality of life of homeless people.

1997

Louis Reyes - After working for five years at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., in a variety of critical care areas, Louis accepted a position in 2003 at Medtronic in their Cardiac Rhythm Management Division (also in D.C.) as a clinical specialist and has since been promoted to senior clinical specialist. He is married and has a two-year-old baby girl Isabella.

1998

Erin (McKenna) Martin - While working at Johns Hopkins Hospital on the Infectious Disease Unit and as a supervisor of the Moore Clinic (Outpatient ID Clinic), Erin earned her M.S.N. at Johns Hopkins University as a HIV/AIDS clinical specialist. Erin moved to New Bern, NC, in 2004 where she earned her certification in infection control and works as an infection control practitioner at Craven Regional Medical Center.

2000

Jamie Reidy is currently attending the University of Maryland Baltimore to complete her master's degree in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Track. She has worked at Georgetown University Hospital on the Pediatric Unit for the last five years where she is a pediatric clinical instructor for UMB's bachelor's program.



Current first-degree program students Laura Cheung (left) and Eric Boarman take time between classes to check out the nursing graduates from past years.

Send Us YOUR News!

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