

Salisbury University

NURSING NOTES

SUMMER 2007

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

by Dr. Susan Battistoni

There has been much activity in the Department of Nursing this year. We have been reviewing the undergraduate and graduate programs and starting to write the self-study report for re-accreditation visits from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON). Both accrediting agencies are coming to review the SU nursing program April 14-16, 2008.

We continue to work with the Community Foundation to fully implement the Partners-In-Nursing program that was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the purpose of increasing retention of new nurses in area agencies and, ultimately, increasing the number of nursing faculty. This program provides mentors for new graduates in addition to the staff assigned by the agency to orient new graduates.

Faculty accomplishments include: Dr. Catherine Walsh and Dr. Dorothea McDowell were promoted to the rank of professor; Debra Webster and Molly Parsons have each completed coursework and successfully defended the research proposal for their dissertations; and Dr. Karin Johnson was named Public Health Leader of the Year by Wicomico County Health Department.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of three new faculty during the

last year: Laurie Rockelli, Katherine Green and Dr. Tina Brown. Rockelli's specialty is psychiatric nursing with a sub-specialty in child/adolescent psychology, Green's specialty is adult health with a sub-specialty in critical care and Brown's specialty is community health with a sub-specialty in addictions. All three received three-year fellowships from the Maryland Higher Education Committee; Rockelli and Green received the Health Care Shortage Fellowship and Brown was awarded the Henry Welcome Fellowship. In addition to faculty, we have a new administrative assistant for the graduate and second-degree programs, Valerie Butler.

The NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate continues to move upward and we are happy to report that for 2006-2007 it is approximately 90 percent. We have not received the official figures from MBON yet, but you can check on our first-time test taker pass rate at www.mbon.org, click on "Education."

Please continue to keep in touch with us whether you move, change jobs, enter/complete advanced education or just want to let us know what is happening in your life. We will continue to keep in contact via alumni and employment surveys and this annual newsletter.

Best wishes!



Lucy Tull

\$5.3 Million Nursing Bequest Announced

The Salisbury University Foundation announced the largest single gift by an individual donor in its history—\$5.3 million to benefit nursing and other medically related professions taught at SU. The bequest is from the estate of Lucy Tull of Salisbury, who died in June 2006.

Most of the gift—\$4.8 million—will be used to establish the Lucy Tull Scholarship program for students with financial need wishing to pursue a degree in a medically related field. Students must reside in Wicomico, Worcester or Somerset counties. The funds are also available for transfer students from Wor-Wic Community College who meet the scholarship prerequisites. Those studying nursing have priority, but students in other programs such as pre-medicine and the health sciences, including respiratory therapy and clinical laboratory science, may also apply. The remaining \$500,000 is earmarked for the Lucy Tull Nursing Department Enhancement Fund for faculty development and departmental equipment and supplies.

Although she spent the last four decades of her life in Salisbury, Tull's adopted home was New York City. A Sutton Place socialite who graduated

from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and the New York School of Interior Design, she was fondly remembered by her family for her charm, wit and sense of fashion. A regular visitor to the Eastern Shore while growing up, Tull had family ties to Worcester and Somerset counties. In the second half of her life, she built a home near the University in the Ridge Road neighborhood. Keenly concerned about health care issues, she believed in SU's ability to educate high quality medical professionals needed in the region and beyond.

"This gift is a remarkable statement about the power of a healing hand and the difference that many believe we can make," said Dr. Susan Battistoni, chair of the SU Nursing Department. "We, the faculty, are proud to be entrusted with Mrs. Tull's legacy." In appreciation, the Nursing Department has named the Lucy Tull Nursing Learning Resource Laboratory on the second floor of Devilbiss Hall in her memory.

Three nursing majors were selected as inaugural recipients: Arin Richter, incoming senior from Ocean City; Marilyn Isner, incoming freshman from Berlin; and, Chelsea Tyler, incoming freshman from Ewell.

KEEP IN TOUCH! SU DEPARTMENT OF NURSING Chair, Dr. Susan Battistoni

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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!

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FACULTY NEWS

PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Vonnice Brown** presented “The Smith Island Experience: Utilizing Partnerships to Enhance Practice and Education in Public Health Nursing” at the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators conference in Kansas City, MO, in June 2007.
- **Dr. Dorothea McDowell**, along with Xiping Ma, presented on the topic, “Just How Computer Literate Are Baccalaureate Nursing Students?” at Educating Nurses: Innovations to Application, sponsored by Institute for Educators in Nursing and Health Professions, University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore in 2006.
- **Drs. Cathy Walsh, Lisa Seldomridge & Karen Badros** presented on the topic of “Creating a Practical Tool for Faculty to Evaluate Student Clinical Performance” at Drexel University Nursing Education Institute, in Providence, RI, in June 2007.
- **Katherine Green** presented a poster titled “No Frills to High Tech: Multiple Strategies for Critical Care Clinical Simulation” at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in Miami, FL, in June 2007.
- **Debra Webster** presented a poster titled “Using Creative Arts to Enhance Student Empathy and Understanding of Mental Illness” at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute, Miami, FL, in June, 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

- **DiBartolo, M.C.** (2006). “Respect and dignity: Enduring concepts, enduring challenges.” [Guest Editorial]. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 32(5), 12.
- **Badros, K.K. & Knight, C.** (2006) “Sports medicine and school nurses: A growing need for further education and appropriate resources.” *Journal of School Health*, 76, 8-11.
- **McDowell, D.E. & Ma, X.** (2007). “Computer literacy in baccalaureate nursing students during the last eight years.” *CLIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, 25, 30-36.
- **Mills, M.E. & McDowell, D.E.** (2006) “Academic Programs” in *Online Health Sciences Education: Development and Implementation*, N. Jairath & M. E. Mills (Eds). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- **Walsh, C.M., Seldomridge, L.A., & Badros, K.K.** (2007) “California Critical Thinking Disposition Inventory: Further factor analytic examination.” *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 104, 141-151.
- **Walsh, C.M., & Seldomridge, L.A.** (July-Aug, 2006). “Measuring critical thinking: One step forward, one step back.” *Nurse Educator*, 31(4), 159-162.

Graduate Program Update

The Department of Nursing recently received a three-year, \$255,000 Nursing Support Program II (NSP II) grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The focus of the grant is to increase the number of Maryland nursing faculty and to increase the pipeline for nursing faculty. Major initiatives that will be undertaken as part of this grant include development of a Clinical Nurse Educator Track and an RN-to-master's program. The Clinical Nurse Educator Track will prepare nurses for advanced practice as nursing educators, both in clinical areas and the classroom. The RN-to-master's track will encourage qualified ADN-prepared nurses to seek a master's degree and will make it more efficient for them to forgo the B.S. and move directly into the master's program. Both tracks will ultimately offer approximately 50 percent of the courses in distance-learning format. To achieve the distance-learning goals and maintain quality standards, the Department of Nursing will create its own state-of-the-art, technology-supported classroom to provide resources for the development and support of distance learning courses that are accessible, efficient, engaging and student-focused. Both programs are expected to be operational by fall 2008.

The graduate nursing program is also pleased to report that nurses living in Delaware or Virginia who wish to come to Salisbury University for a graduate nursing degree will now be able to pay the in-state tuition rate plus a small adjustment rather than having to pay out-of-state tuition rates which are considerably higher. The Department of Nursing hopes that these lower tuition rates will encourage Delaware and Maryland students to come to Salisbury University for their graduate nursing education.

CLASS NOTES

1982

Valerie (Loveless) Wells has resided in the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami area since 1990 where she worked as the clinical educator of the Cardiovascular ICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. She earned her M.S.N. in a nurse practitioner program at Florida International University and currently practices as a NP in the 30-bed surgical ICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital where she is responsible for the medical management of transplant, trauma, vascular, GI and other critically-ill surgical patients. She is married with two teenage boys.

1991

Amy (Smith) Farmer was selected Administrative Nurse of the Year at the Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown, MD, where she had first worked as director of Surgical Services, and in 2004, she accepted the position of staffing manager there.

1998

Heather Russell works as the senior director of Critical Care and Neuroscience Services at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, VA. Some of her other accomplishments include the Medal of Honor from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2005), AACN Circle of Excellence President's Award (2006) and Nursing Spectrum's Nurse Manager of the Year (2004). She resides in Alexandria, VA.

1999

Melissa (Crichton) Gretton. After starting her career at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a cardiac nurse, Melissa moved to Southern Maryland in 2001 and took a position in a long-term care facility as an infection control/employee health/wound care nurse. In May 2006, she took a position at the Southern Maryland Hospital Center as a full-time wound care nurse and received her certification through the American Academy of Wound Management as a wound specialist this past October.

2000

Lori (Morsberger) O'Connor and her husband, Ryan, are proud parents of a baby girl, Sierra Cade, born on April 24. Sierra weighed in at 8 lbs, 2 oz. Lori continues to work part time as an adult nurse practitioner at a private internal medicine primary care office in Towson, MD.

2001

Melissa (Citrano) Maloney. After working in labor and delivery at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore, Melissa and her husband moved to Shanghai, China, in August 2005 where they both are teaching at the Shanghai American School. Melissa is a middle school nurse and department chair there. While overseas, they have done quite a bit of traveling; they have visited Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Bali and other destinations in China.



Center:
Melissa Maloney '01
with her husband in China

Katey (Cecil) Purgason published an article in *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing* (Nov/Dec, 2006 issue) titled, “Broken Hearts: Differentiating Stress-induced Cardiomyopathy from Acute Myocardial Infarction in the Patient Presenting with Acute Coronary Syndrome.” Katey is an acute care nurse practitioner and works in the Emergency Department at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore.

2003

Ernestine Kon-Bendu has been accepted into the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Georgetown University for this coming fall. Ernestine has worked in the medical ICU at Georgetown University Hospital since graduation.

2006

Logan Wenta received the 2007 GYN/OB New Graduate Clinical Excellence Award at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore where she has worked in the Labor and Delivery Unit since graduation.

Send Us YOUR News!

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