

Salisbury University

NURSING NOTES

SUMMER 2009

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW! GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Lisa Seldomridge

Greetings from a familiar face! No, you're not reading an old newsletter—it is 2009, and I have returned to the position of department chair. The 2008-2009 academic year has been a landmark year for the Department of Nursing with numerous accomplishments. None of these would be possible without the outstanding leadership of former chair Dr. Susan Battistoni, former associate chair Dr. Thea McDowell and former director of Graduate and Second-Degree Programs Dr. Karin Johnson. Although they have stepped away from their administrative positions, each plays a key role in our continued success as they return to full-time teaching. Please join me in thanking them for their collective administrative service of over 20 years.

In addition to the usual business of teaching undergraduate and graduate students, we reached several other important milestones.

Among the highlights:

- Salisbury University graduates posted the highest NCLEX-RN pass rate for all bachelor's degree programs in the state of Maryland with a pass rate of 95.45 percent.
- The undergraduate and graduate programs received re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for the maximum period, 10 years.
- Three faculty completed doctoral degrees at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Drs. Laurie Rockelli, Michele Bracken and Rita Nutt, raising the percentage of doctorally-prepared tenure track faculty in the department to an all-time high of 87.5 percent. Dr. Rita Nutt is the first faculty member to hold the new D.N.P. (Doctor of Nursing Practice) credential.
- 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of graduating students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. With its roots in the three-year Peninsula General Hospital School of Nursing, early collaborations between then Salisbury State College and PGH allowed for a natural transition to baccalaureate education for nurses. Over 100 people attend our gala, held May 9, 2009.
- The department has been named a recipient of eight \$10,000 scholarships from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Careers in Nursing Program. This program aims to increase the number of graduates of accelerated second-bachelor's degree from under-

represented and economically disadvantaged groups. Students enrolled in this program typically graduate in three semesters. As a result of this scholarship program, which begins in fall 2009, Salisbury University will increase enrollment in its accelerated second-bachelor's program to 24 students.

- Dr. Karen Badros and Dr. Susan Battistoni received the Lucy Tull Distinguished Faculty Award for excellence in nursing education and commitment to regional healthcare.
- Two new graduate nursing tracks were launched in fall 2008 as outcomes of a \$261,000 Maryland Higher Education Commission Nurse Support Program grant written by Dr. Karen Johnson and Dr. Susan Battistoni. The R.N. to Master's Program provides the RN wishing to have a graduate nursing degree with a 9-12 credit efficiency over the more traditional route where the B.S. and M.S. in nursing are pursued separately. The Clinical Nurse Educator Track prepares graduate nurses for positions as clinical faculty in colleges/universities or health care settings. Graduates of this track are eligible to take the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) exam.
- Three new clinical faculty positions will be developed in collaboration with Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Atlantic General Hospital as the result of a \$635,601 grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission Nurse Support Program. This three-year project, directed by Dr. Lisa Seldomridge, will provide mentorship for expert nurse clinicians as they transition to clinical nursing faculty positions. As a new model for the Eastern Shore of Maryland, this initiative aims to address the shortage of qualified clinical nursing faculty.



- Updates on the 2 Gs—Genetics and Gerontology:
 - Genetics workshops were held in April for faculty and students to learn more about genetics, genomics and what practicing nurses need to know about both. Led by Dr. Sharon Olsen from Johns Hopkins University, the faculty engaged in lively discussions about ways to update content and assignments to prepare B.S. and M.S. graduates for contemporary nursing practice.
 - Gerontology infusion in the undergraduate curriculum is the focus for 2009-2010, led by Drs. Mary DiBartolo and Vonnie Brown after attendance at the prestigious Harford Institute for Gerontology in San Diego, CA. As the U.S. population ages, tomorrow's nurses will need even more specialized education to provide the best care possible. SU intends to be at the forefront of providing that education.
- Familiar faces in new roles include Dr. Debra Webster, who assumed the position of associate chair in January 2009, and Dr. Molly Parsons, who began July 2009 as the new director of Graduate and Second-degree Programs. In addition, Dr. William Campbell has expanded his role in advising RN students.
- New faces in the department include Ms. Jaimi Hall (SU, 1995) who returns for her second year as a full-time non-tenure track faculty teaching and supervising clinical experiences in maternal/newborn care and Ms. Carmel Boger, Administrative Assistant for the Graduate and Second-Degree programs.
- New faces in the Henson School of Science and Technology include Dr. Karen Olmstead who began as dean July 1, 2008. A biologist by education, Dr. Olmstead made two clinical site visits (with Dr. Laurie Rockelli in psych and Professor Katie Simmons, in ICU stepdown) so she could understand the business of what we do.

If you haven't visited our departmental Web site in a while, please take a look at www.salisbury.edu/nursing. In addition to further information on the items listed here, you'll find photos of our 30th anniversary celebration, "SU Nursing in a Nutshell" and more. We'd also love to hear from you. In this electronic age, it's easy to stay in touch: laseldomridge@salisbury.edu.



Jingzhou Museum

West Goes East: SU in China

In May 2009, a group of SU nursing students, faculty and alumni and two Thomas Jefferson University nursing students traveled to China to study Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and visit some of that country's wonders. The group included faculty members Dr. Dorothea McDowell and Professor Katie Hinderer, alumnae and graduate student Aaron Sebach, alumni Kortni Pedlow and Diana Woodard, and current SU students Katherine Bernoske, Jennifer Hamm and Orlett Haskett.

While in China the group had opportunities to be educated in TCM, as well as, see it in practice at a TCM hospital. While in Jingzhou City, Hubei, McDowell and Hinderer presented talks on "Prevention of Healthcare Acquired Infections" and "Critical Care Nursing in the United States" to the Academy of Jingzhou Nurses. Alumni Kortni Pedlow and Aaron Sebach presented talks on "Care of the Acute MI Patient" and "Trauma Nursing" to students of the Medical School of Yangtze University.

Other highlights of the trip included visiting the Three Gorges Dam in Xichang, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall. Most of the group members conquered the use of chop sticks and came home with stories to tell of taxi rides, pedestrian accident near misses, night life in Beijing and riding a rip line down from the Great Wall.

McDowell plans to offer a short-term study abroad trip to China every other summer.

Keep In Touch!
Send any news or updates to:
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FACULTY NEWS

PRESENTATIONS

- **Drs. Lisa Seldomridge & Mary DiBartolo** were invited for a podium presentation titled “*Clickers in the Classroom: “Thinking Out Loud Without the Risk”*” at the annual Drexel University Nursing Education Institute held in Arlington, VA, in June 2009.
- **Dr. Debra Webster** presented at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in Arlington, VA, in June 2009, “*Using Guided Reflection and Creativity to Promote Student Learning in a Psychiatric-Mental Health Course.*”
- **Dr. Laurie Rockelli** presented “*Understanding Family Grief and Loss*” to Partners in Nursing on September 9, 2008, in Salisbury, MD, and also presented her dissertation research titled “*Coping in Post-MI Patients and Spouses/Companions at Risk for Sudden Cardiac Death*” at the Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference on February 13, 2009, in Baltimore, MD, and for the Delmarva Chapter of AACN on June 9, 2009, in Laurel, DE.
- **Dr. Tina Brown** presented a poster at the seventh biennial Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues conference titled, “*Why Perform Breast Self-Exams (BSE)?*” The conference was held in Chicago June 2009. Also in June, she presented a poster at the 12th biennial conference of the Society for Community Research and Action at Montclair State University titled “*What Role Does Risk and Efficacy Play in BSE Intention?*”
- **Professor Katie Hinderer** presented a poster at the National Teaching Institute of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses titled, “*Secondary Traumatic Stress, Burnout, Compassion Fatigue, and Compassion Satisfaction in Trauma Nurses.*” The conference was held this past May in New Orleans, LA.

PUBLICATIONS

- Kane, F. I., Clement, G. & **Kane, M.** (2008). Live Kidney Donation and the Ethic of Care. *Journal of Medical Humanities.*
- **McDowell, D. E.**, Dillon, T. W., & Lending, D. (2008). Perceived quality benefits influenced by usefulness and documentation accuracy of information systems. *CLIN: Computers, Information, Nursing, 26*(6), 350-357.
- **Seldomridge, L. A., & DiBartolo, M. C.** (2009). Cinemaeducation: Teaching End-of-Life Issues Using Feature Films. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 35*(8), 30-36.
- **Drs. Mary DiBartolo & Lisa Seldomridge** were the featured cover story, “*Lights, Camera, Nursing!*,” in the June 2009 issue of *ADVANCE for Nurses*, recognized for their contributions to the Nursing Department-sponsored *Focus on Health* series which airs on local University-based cable access channel PAC14. Seldomridge founded the series in 1999 and DiBartolo took on duties as host in 2003 which has expanded to include not only interview programs, but also taped surgical procedures. The series celebrated its 100th episode in December 2008.

OTHER NEWS

Professor Katie (Green) Simmons married Eric Hinderer on January 12, 2009, in Orlando, FL. The newlyweds are residing in Salisbury, MD, and Katie continues to teach full time in the department and diligently work on her Ph.D. in nursing at University of Maryland, Baltimore.

In Memory of Jane Ellen Burns

October 15, 1957 – June 26, 2009

The Nursing Department was saddened to hear the news of Jane’s passing after a courageous 10-month battle with cancer. Jane taught nursing at SU for several years (1992-2001), specializing in psychiatric nursing before earning her nurse practitioner certification and joining her husband in his Main Street MedCenter practice. Jane will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for her clinical expertise, radiant smile, quick wit and her inexhaustible energy.



CLASS NOTES

1984

Annie (Haymond) Hall is an Iraqi war veteran and now an active member in Veterans for Peace organization. She currently works as an anesthetist.

1986

Deborah (Belland) Bergeron worked in the ICU at Montgomery General Hospital after graduation and in 1991 married and moved to Berlin, NH, to work in their Special Care Unit. In 1996, she accepted a position as diabetes educator/nursing supervisor and earned her certification as a Diabetes Educator. Since 2001, she current works as a clinical systems analyst for the Nursing Documentation Computer System. She has two children and is an avid Civil War living historian, maintaining related several Web sites (www.nhcivilwar.com).

2003

Jennifer Evans worked in the medical ICU at Johns Hopkins Bayview after graduation where she was a member of the Rapid Response Team and selected to be a MICU preceptor. She is currently in the process of completing the Boston College’s Nurse Anesthesia Program with anticipated graduation date of May 2010.

2004

Maghan Beauchamp-Reinert and her husband Ben welcomed their first child Ava Rae on May 28. They live in Salisbury where she was working at Wor-Wic Community College as an instructor of the CNA and RN refresher courses.

2005

Sarah (Moore) Evans was married last November to Joseph Evans in an outdoor ceremony at Lighthouse Sound in Bishopville. They are living Tampa, FL, where she works as an emergency/trauma nurse at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital in Tampa.

Celebrating 30 Years of Nursing Excellence



First Graduating Class of 1979



Delegate Addie Eckardt presents Department Chair Lisa Seldomridge with official proclamation recognizing 30 years of nursing at SU.



(From left) Former dean, Dr. Libby Barfield; former SU president, Dr. Norman Crawford, and his wife Garnette; and Professor Mary Kane, founding faculty member.



The evening marked the premiere engagement of the faculty singing group, The Nightingales, who performed their tribute to alternative medicine, “Lime in the Coconut.” (From left) Professor Jaimi Hall, Dr. Laurie Rockelli, Dr. Vonnie Brown, Dr. Mary DiBartolo and Dr. Bill Campbell.

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