



# School of Nursing Newsletter

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End of School Year Issue

May 2013

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## Upcoming Dates:

**Aug. 12:** Academic year begins

**Aug. 13:** Faculty Council, 3:30-5 p.m., McNeill Hall 1051

**Aug. 19:** UNCW Convocation, 10 a.m., Trask Coliseum

**Aug. 19:** Undergraduate Council, 3 - 5 p.m., McNeill Hall 1038.

**Aug. 21:** Fall classes begin

**Sept. 5:** UNCW faculty meeting

**Sept. 2:** Labor Day. No classes.

**Oct. 10-11:** Fall Break. No classes.

*Please submit items of interest, calendar events, notable achievements, community events and questions you may have for our faculty and staff to our editorial/production staff: Sandy O'Donnell or Debra Simpson.*

## Greetings from the Director

The School of Nursing is ending the academic year with much success. The number of graduates is 108: 48 BSN prelicensure; 44 RN to BS; and 16 BS Clinical Research. The NCLEX pass rate for the quarter ending March 31, was 95 percent (the N.C. average pass rate is 92 percent). The SON has hired three new associate professors and the McNeill Distinguished Professorship in Gerontology position was filled. Plans are still underway to develop a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. General Administration responded favorably to our initial proposal and efforts are underway to collaborate with East Carolina University regarding our DNP.



Enrollment in the MSN program is robust. The FNP current pass rate is 100 percent. Plans are underway to expand our RN to BS Program by working with a for-profit company called Academic Partnerships. This relationship will help market and increase our enrollment.

In collaboration with the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), several nursing faculty are continuing to move forward on CHHS's Seven Strategic Initiatives. Five faculty (**Deborah Pollard, Patricia White, Carolyn Jones, April Matthias and Nancy Grant**) were each awarded a grant involving the CHHS iPad initiative. The title of the project is "Tracking Undergraduate Clinical Competencies with iPad Technology."

## Congratulations to the Class of May 2013

Congratulations to the Class of May 2013 on their recent graduation: 16 clinical research graduates, 44 RN-BS graduates and 48 prelicensure graduates.



Class of May 2013 Awards Ceremony photos: prelicensure graduates at left, clinical research graduates at below at left and RN-BSN students at below right.



**Notable Recognition:**

Congratulations to **Deborah Pollard** on being selected for the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award. This award recognizes all aspects of excellence in teaching and teaching-related activities that foster students' desire for lifetime learning and success. There are up to five of these awards made annually throughout the university and only one for the College of Health and Human Services. Recipients of the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Awards receive a medallion to wear at official ceremonies and a one-time stipend. Criteria for selection include leadership and initiative; educational service to the department, college and university, as well as to the community and profession; course and curriculum development; guidance with student research, Honors projects, and independent studies; and recognition as one who has had significant positive impact on students’ lives.



**RuthAnne Kuiper** was named among the Top 20 Medical and Nursing Professors in North Carolina by Online Schools North Carolina, a website whose purpose is to serve as an online classroom resource for learning about N.C. and to offer advice and information about non-traditional learning styles and accredited online schools and colleges.



**Kuiper**, a mentor in the Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA) was quoted in the organization’s recent brochure which describes the mentoring program designed to enhance nurse leadership skills. **Kuiper**, along with other mentors, served a 20-month period to mentor scholars (mentees) within the program. Both mentors and mentees are paired with expert faculty members for additional consultation and guidance. The NFLA is a part of the International Leadership Institute (ILI) of Sigma Theta Tau International. The Elsevier Foundation provides financial support to assist with expenses associated with the mentoring program.

**Notable Recognition: Recipients of the Spring 2013 School of Nursing Awards**

**Excellence Award:** Presented to a student with a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.25, outstanding clinical performances and nominated from students and faculty with final endorsement by the faculty:

Prelicensure: **Michael Curtis** and **Lauren Phillips**    RN/BS: **Matthew Flinchum**    Clinical Research: **Kimberly Davis**

**Achievement Award:** Presented to the student who demonstrates growth and mastery of concepts and practices in nursing, utilizes resources effectively to develop potential and takes initiative for personal learning growth:

Prelicensure: **Kelly Rosado**, May '13    **Chelsey Smith**, May '14    RN/BS: **Lycrecia Sutton**, May '13  
 Clinical Research: **James English**, May '13    **Tony Hensley**, May '14

**Nurses’ Day Celebration**

The 17th Annual Nurses Day Celebration, hosted by the SON and N.C. Nurses’ Association, District 22, celebrated National Nurses Week with a dinner celebration on May 7. **Mindy Saksa** (Class of May '08) was awarded the Outstanding School of Nursing Alumnus Award. **Saksa** is an HIV clinical nurse and a part of the HIV Care Team (outpatient) at NHRMC (see photo at right). Also at the dinner celebration seven individuals were awarded scholarships through the N.C. Nurses’ Association, District 22, and the Catherine Boyd Spell Nursing Foundation; and 81 nurses and nurse practitioners in New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick Counties were recognized for their contributions to nursing.



## Congratulations to the May Class of 2013!

### BS Graduates

#### Clinical Research

Ashleigh Thomas Adams  
 Rachael Anne Beatty #  
 Maria Christine Caponi  
 Kimberly Disher Davis  
 Madeline Davlin

# Order of Omega

James Michael English  
 Joanna Weaver Metts  
 Alexa Marie Mulrath  
 Elizabeth Laura Olson  
 Brittany Shelton Ruppert  
 Christian Lenoonor Sanchez-Martinez

Santo Joseph Toscano  
 Keneisha Renee West  
 Richard Curth Williams  
 Victoria Shea Williams «  
 Jaimie Michelle Young  
 « Psi Chi Honor Society

#### RN/BSN

Lisa Watson Amato  
 Colleen Applewhite ∞=  
 Jami Lynn Carlson  
 Angel Love Chamberlin  
 Katherine Jewell Doss  
 Jason Evans =  
 Jennifer Marie Feagan  
 Matthew Edward Flinchum  
 Erin A Fulcher +  
 Jennifer Lynn Gise \* =  
 Meredith Nicole Hinson  
 Alysa Lauren Horne  
 Gloria Inthisone  
 Kev'ann Denise Jarman

=Completing Summer 2013

Tina Louise Jessup  
 Megan Elizabeth Jones  
 Michael Walton Jones  
 Thomas Martin Leighton  
 Ariel Devon Locklear  
 Tammy Lynn Marquez =  
 John Robert Martin  
 Heather D. Mitchell \*  
 Shalane Beth Moore  
 Kellie Nicole Nye \*  
 Miranda Baxley Oliver  
 Jessica Lynn Pittard  
 Christy Joanne Pope =  
 Nakima A Roberts  
 Ashley Nicole Rose =

Taylor Marie Sapp  
 Stephanie Marie Shea \*  
 Lacy Roann Simpson =  
 Jessica Thompson Spivey  
 Jacqueline Bailey Stocks  
 Megan Danielle Street  
 Lycrecia Swinson Sutton  
 Sherry Morgan Thomas  
 Amanda Joan Thompson  
 Ashley Thompson-Godwin  
 Rebecca Brown Trickey \*  
 Laura Claire Van Essendelft  
 Lauren Stephens Ward  
 Christina Lynn West  
 Alicia Renae White

#### Prelicensure

Jordan Marie Allen +\*∞§  
 Katherine A. Barnes  
 Cassandra Nicole Broglio  
 Madeline Foster Chastain +\*  
 Michael H Curtis  
 Justina Marie Danko  
 Kari Elizabeth Davidson + ~^  
 Taylor Ellen Day  
 Betsy Ann Dickerson +\*  
 Kimberly Susan Drury +  
 Emily Morgan Durham +\*  
 Jill Valentine Ferebee +\*  
 Jessica Howarth Garver +\*  
 Megan Elaine Goodwin +\*  
 Kourtney Elizabeth Hartley +  
 Adela Hernandez

Scott Douglas Hurley  
 Hayley Helen Mary Kerr \*  
 Kristin Mendenhall King  
 Melanie Nicole Kiser  
 Shannon Elizabeth Lane  
 Kelsey Emma Lingerfelt  
 Hannah Marie McClung \*  
 Misty Lee Millikan +∞  
 Chandler Elise Moeller \*~^  
 Courtney Renee Moore  
 Abigail Higgins Mueller  
 Whitney Denise Murrill ^  
 Melanie Kathryn Nance +  
 Alexandra Paige Nolan +  
 Rachel Elizabeth Oliver  
 Jennifer Marie Palumbo

Lauren Ann Phillips ~^  
 Mary Christine Piner  
 Melissa Marie Prasnika ~  
 Kelly Capps Rosado  
 Caley Brooke Sears +^§  
 Hayley Deanna Smith  
 Katheryn Lindsay Smith \*§  
 Michelle Marinucci Stough  
 Lydia Jane Strachan +\*  
 Amy Caroline Stryjewski \*§  
 Kristin Lauren Stumler  
 Kayla Michelle Sutton  
 Lauren Thornburg Tilley +∞  
 Mariah Porcher Whisenhunt \*~  
 Leslie Michelle Wiesling  
 Daina Marie Worcester

+ North Carolina Nurse Scholar  
 ~ Departmental Honors  
 ^ University Honors

\* Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society  
 ∞ Sigma Alpha Lambda National Honor Society  
 § Phi Kappa Phi

## Notable Achievements:

**RuthAnne Kuiper** was the keynote speaker at the April 12 N.C. League for Nursing Conference on Teaching Strategies to Enhance Student Learning in the Clinical and Classroom Setting. **Kuiper** spoke on “Promoting Clinical Reasoning in Undergraduate Nursing Students.”

Research authored by **Jeanne Kempainen** and others accepted for publication on PubMed. The citation is as follows: Kempainen, J., Brion, J., Leary, M., Wantland, D., Sullivan, K. ... Kirksey, K. (2013). Use of a brief version of the self-compassion inventory with an international sample of people with HIV/AIDS. *AIDS Care*, March 25 [Epub ahead of print].

Congratulations to **Brandy Mechling** (pictured left) for receiving her doctoral degree from UNC Chapel Hill on May 11. **Mechling**, a lecturer within the SON for the past seven years, will assume the title of assistant professor in the fall teaching mental health nursing. Her research activities focus on young adults who grew up with a mentally-ill parent at home, the young adults’ outcomes and factors that might have helped or hindered their psychosocial well-being during the formative years. Her dissertation is titled “Living in a shadow: Psychosocial well-being in emerging adults who grew up with a depressed parent.”



**Carol Heinrich** and **April Matthias** attended the AACN 2013 Hot Issues Conference, Online Teaching-Learning: Policies and Practices for the Future of Nursing Education in Nursing Education in St. Louis on April 11-13. Since the faculty currently teaching in the RN-BS program are working with online teaching experts to enhance the current nursing courses using best practices in online education, the conference proved to be very beneficial in providing information and opportunities to learn more about effective online teaching. A major focus of the conference was the AACN White Paper, “Expectations for Practice Experiences in the RN to Baccalaureate Curriculum.” **Heinrich** (pictured right) presented a paper related to the development of the nursing course Pathophysiologic and Pharmacological Evidence Based Nursing Care, a new nursing elective in the RN-BS curriculum. This presentation focused on the use of an evolving case study in an online environment.



**Robert Crutchley** (May '12) and **Carol Heinrich** presented a poster “Literacy and Informational Support of Patient-Family Members in Critical Care Settings” at the Institute for Healthcare Advancement 12th Annual Health Literacy Conference: Operational Solutions to Low Health Literacy in Irvine, California on May 8-10. **Heinrich** and former faculty **Chris Orton** also presented at this same conference a poster “Understanding of Health Information: the Older Adults’ Perspective.”

Pediatric faculty **Carolyn Jones** successfully defended her research proposal “Narrative Analysis of Parental Stress and Coping” on April 25 at UNC Chapel Hill, where **Jones** is pursuing her Ph.D. During the summer months **Jones** will begin analyzing illness blogs written by parents of hospitalized children.

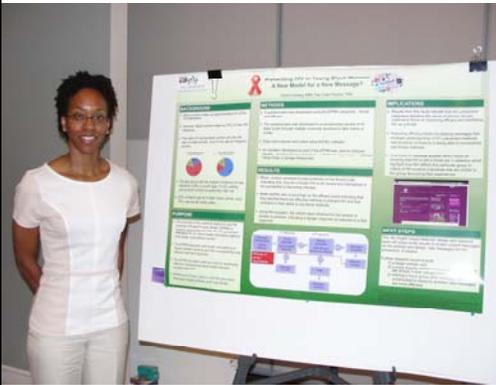
**Patty White** presented her poster on “The Nuts and Bolts of Student-Driven Simulation” at the 4th Annual “So you Bought the Manikin, Now What?” Conference in Greensboro, N.C. on Mar. 9 and at the 21st Annual Nu Omega Research Day on April 19. The purpose of this phenomenological qualitative research was to determine the effectiveness of student-driven simulation as a means to create a realistic, engaged and applied learning experience for first semester senior nursing students. Results identified common themes of being engaged in learning; less stressful environment which contributed to learning, enhancement of interdisciplinary teamwork and communication; a more positive learning experience; appreciation for caregiver’s role; integration of learning accrued from other courses; and increased comfort level with skills and self-performance.

## 2013 Nu Omega Chapter (Sigma Theta Tau) Research Day

The 22nd annual Nu Omega Chapter (Sigma Theta Tau International) hosted the 22nd annual Research Day, "Give Back to Move Forward." Five podium presentations depicting recent and current research were made to an audience of students, faculty, administrators and nurses from NHRMC. In addition, there were 10 poster presentations.



## Notable Awards at the 20th Annual Nu Omega Research Day: Poster Presentations



The award for the graduate student poster presentation was given to **Cherie Conley** (pictured left) for her research "Preventing HIV in College-Age African-American Women: Using the Extended Parallel Process Model (EPPM) to Assess Perceptions of Severity and Threat."

**Chandler Moeller** (pictured right) received the undergraduate student poster presentation award for her research poster presentation "Impact of Childhood Cancer Diagnosis on Siblings' Health and Well-being: A Qualitative Study." Her faculty advisor was **Jane Fox**.



New Hanover Regional Medical Center nurses, nursing faculty and one student made podium presentations. Congratulations to the following for these presentations: **Nasrin Falsafi** ("Use of Mindfulness and Self-compassion Practices with Uninsured and Low-income Patients with Anxiety and/or Depression"), **Ann Quinlan-Colwell** ("Are There Benefits to Teaching Newly Hired Nurses Self-care Techniques in a Mandatory Workshop Format"), **Stephanie Turrise** ("Illness Representations, Treatment Beliefs, Medication Adherence and Hospital Readmission in Elderly Individuals with Chronic Heart Failure"), **Andrea Kiogima** and **Linda Tobin** ("What You Can't See Can Hurt: Improving PPE Usage") and **Melissa Prasnika** ("Health Literacy and Patient Understanding of Prescription Drug Labels in a Primary Healthcare Setting").

## Simulation Learning Center (SLC) News

The second half of the spring semester in the SLC was quite busy for pre-licensure students with many hours of practice and assessment labs. Two hundred students, in four different clinical courses, participated in over 80 high-fidelity simulations. These simulations allowed students to demonstrate necessary teamwork and communication skills, as well as clinical judgment that is critical for professional practice. In addition, 100 students completed individual, end-of-semester health assessment testing. All of these numerous activities continue to validate the education our students receive to practice safe, quality nursing care.



As students engaged in several community education and class presentations, the request to borrow equipment and teaching aides from the SLC continues to grow. Fortunately, the SON has been able to purchase new equipment to meet these needs.

Tours for various faculty candidates, school groups and others UNCW groups were numerous. Also, simulation faculty and staff were exhibitors at the UNCW 10th Annual Wilmington Information Technology Exchange (WITX) Conference on April 9, along with Pedi Hal®, a five-year-old high-fidelity simulator. The SLC also agreed to participate in the 1st UNCW STEM Expo but unfortunately, rain and wind prohibited the transport of Pedi Hal® outside of McNeill Hall.



## Reflective Day 2013



On April 25, 48 students enrolled in nursing courses (Pediatric Nursing and Community Nursing) presented their Reflective Projects. This assignment, which is a collaborative effort between the two courses, was accepted as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Applied and Interactive Learning Experience.

Students were asked to select patients from either course who had impacted them in some way. As the first part of the assignment each student was required to write a paper presenting the patient's pathophysiology and relevant nursing diagnoses and then use the OPT Model to plan care for the patient. The second part was for each student to create a product that incorporated the arts and humanities and was reflective of what they saw in his or her patient and/or patient's family. Students explained how the selected patients had impacted them as nurses and how the caring experiences would frame their nursing models in the future.

Student presentations were made to faculty and visitors. entire class and the faculty of both courses (and any visitors). The creative items, which reflect individual experiences, are on display on the second floor of McNeill Hall.



## Faculty Travels to El Salvador to Conduct Seminars and Home Health Visits



Graduate faculty **Jane Fox** traveled to El Salvador and specifically to the small, indigent community of Apopa. This community, located 20 minutes from the capital city of San Salvador, is known for gang violence. Accompanied by volunteers from the U.S. Embassy, **Fox** worked three days at a facility to conduct seminars on non-violent conflict resolution for youth at risk for joining gangs within the community. While at the Apopa facility, **Fox** and her colleagues saw over 200 patients. **Fox** and her entourage then moved to Concholio, a port city one



hour from San Salvador where **Fox** has worked for over 10 years. While there, **Fox** and the embassy volunteers saw over 500 patients, who view this clinic as their main source of health care. The work hours were long and the group worked until dark when lighting became scarce due to limited electricity. The final day was utilized for 14 home visits to individuals unable to make the trip to the clinic.

## American Assembly of Men in Nursing

The American Assembly of Men in Nursing (AAMN) had two speakers during the spring semester: **Jill Harrington**, employment specialist at NHRMC; and **Mary Canel**, adult nurse practitioner from the Abrons Health Health Center. Other speakers from various specialties will appear before the organization during the Fall semester to discuss their respective roles and responsibilities.

## Farewell to Two of Our Faculty



A fond farewell is extended to retiring faculty **Kathleen Ennen** and **Anne Zabriskie** with heartfelt appreciation for their tireless efforts over the past several years.

During her seven years at UNCW, **Ennen** taught Adult Health I, Gerontological Nursing and Health Policy courses to undergraduate students, both pre-licensure and RN-BSN; and Health Care Delivery Systems and Health Policy to FNP students. She also served as faculty guide for many undergraduate Departmental Honors student projects. In addition, **Ennen** contributed to shaping the creation of the CHHS through her membership on the Ad Hoc Interdisciplinary Task Force which formulated its creation and operational policies. **Ennen** has served on numerous SON committees and task forces, such as the Program Evaluation Committee, the CCNE Self-Study Report Group, the Curriculum Committee and Test Review Committee. She also worked on the University Curriculum Committee and the UNCW Faculty Senate Budget Committee. **Ennen's** scholarship activities on stroke prevention among women in southeast N.C. have been published and disseminated through presentations on the international, national and statewide levels. Also, her work has been shared with others through local presentations to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and local women's and church groups.

**Ennen's** plans for the coming years include continuation of her research and teaching of RN-BSN and doctoral nursing students. Also, she looks forward to spending time with friends and family across the country, including her nine (plus one-on-the-way) grandchildren.

**Anne Zabriskie** first joined the SON faculty in 1994 for two years and then returned in 2008. Her teaching role within the undergraduate program evolved into the simulation learning coordinator, which presented opportunities to utilize skills from prior roles of educator and administrator.

**Zabriskie's** organizational and leadership skills were evident during the monumental transition in 2010. This transition consisted of an expansion from a 1,000-square-foot single laboratory space in Friday Annex to eight specialty labs in McNeill Hall with more than 10,000 square feet. Students from undergraduate and graduate programs at this time began to participate in multiple labs simultaneously and clinical instructors were able to experiment and expand current simulation practices. In addition, a full-time IT specialist was hired under her leadership to operate and maintain all medium- and high-fidelity manikins.



Our gratitude to **Zabriskie** extends beyond the physical boundaries of the SLC. She has designed lab activities and simulations for clinical courses, including the new Foundations of Nursing course offered for the first time this semester. **Zabriskie** has assisted faculty with laboratory teaching, initiation of high-fidelity simulation assessments and implementation of a SLC user policy and fee schedule. She has participated in the planning and implementation of numerous summer camps, expanded current simulation policy development and facilitated the transition of the Simulation Task Force to the standing Simulation Learning Standing Committee. With support from the SON administration, **Zabriskie** was selected to participate in the first NLN Simulation Leadership program, thereby allowing her to share with faculty her depth of simulation knowledge and best practices. During this period she was able to achieve a professional goal of coauthoring peer-reviewed journal articles and has contributed to the NLN Simulation Innovation Resource Center website.

## Office of Student Services is on Facebook

The Office of Student Services started a Facebook group for UNCW Pre-Nursing Students. Currently there are 119 members who are posing questions daily. Students are able to connect with each other and to have their question answered.

The Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129778600542236/>



### A Belated Welcome to One of Our Newest Faculty: Marge Verzella

Marge Verzella joined the faculty in October 2012 as the undergraduate clinical coordinator and as undergraduate clinical faculty. Previously, she served as an emergency department staff nurse at NHRMC and in various other nursing roles ranging from long-term care to a cardiac step-down unit to home health and hospice. Verzella received her MSN-NE degree from UNCW in May 2012. Her research interests include nursing informatics, health care technology and simulation.

Married with three sons, Verzella enjoys reading, kayaking, crocheting, landscaping and assisting her husband with the construction of a 17-foot catamaran.

### Congratulations to the May '13 Honors Students

Congratulations to the May '13 undergraduate Honors students for their research activities and oral defenses. Pictured from left to right are: **Kari Davidson, Chandler Mueller, Mariah Whisenhunt, Lauren Phillips and Melissa Prasnikar.**



### A Lingering Thought from the Editor . . .

In his book *Excellence*, author and university professor John Gardner wrote: "Some people have greatness thrust upon them. Very few have excellence thrust upon them. They achieve it."

Never is this more apparent to this nursing instructor than what is noted among our students throughout the academic year. Then at the end of the semester students, families and faculty gather together at the Awards Ceremony where we recognize the achievements, and of course excellence, of our students. It's one of my favorite events of the school year.

However, it's one thing to strive for excellence, it's another to accept the responsibility that accompanies excellence: of those to whom much is given, much is required.

Our students over the course of two years have given of their time, talents and efforts to achieve a coveted degree and an education in modern day health care diversity and complexity. The challenges, whether recognized or not, await them. We strive as educators to inspire and encourage the development of our students to become outstanding health care professionals. We want them not only to live up to the challenges, but to excel within their new roles and to eventually lead the pack.

Hopefully, this edition of the newsletter reflects but a portion of the excellence that our students and faculty have achieved despite demands, anticipated or not. I thank you for your contributions to this publication and wish our readers all the best as we continue on the path to excellence.



*Sandra O'Donnell, Editor*

Please submit calendar events, organizational news, notable achievements, community events, research and scholarship activities to our editorial and production staff: Sandy O'Donnell (odonnells@uncw.edu) or Debra Simpson (simpsond@uncw.edu).



### Final Lingering Thought . . .

Have a fun and relaxing summer!

(Mt. Timpanogos seen from Sundance, Utah)