



**UNC Wilmington**



# School of Nursing Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

End of Semester Issue

December 2013

Editor: Sandra O'Donnell ([odonnells@uncw.edu](mailto:odonnells@uncw.edu))

Production: Debra Simpson ([simpsond@uncw.edu](mailto:simpsond@uncw.edu))

## Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 9:** Spring Semester begins
- Jan. 13** Spring classes begin
- Jan. 13:** Faculty Council Meeting, 3:30-5 p.m., 1051 McNeill Hall
- Jan. 16:** Board Meeting of the Nu Omega Chapter of STTI, 5-6 p.m., 1022 McNeill Hall
- Jan 16:** Nu Omega Educational Program. Topic and speaker to be announced. NHRMC
- Jan 20:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. No classes
- Jan. 20:** Undergraduate Council Meeting, 3-5 p.m., 1028 McNeill
- Feb. 17:** Prelicensure Council Meeting, 3-5 p.m., 1028 McNeill
- Mar. 1-9:** Spring Break
- Mar. 17:** RN-BSN Committee, 3 p.m., 2056 McNeill Hall
- Mar. 20:** Sigma Theta Tau Board Meeting, 5-6 p.m., 1022 McNeill
- Mar. 23-29:** Good Friday Holiday.
- April 9:** Faculty Meeting, 3:30-5 p.m., 1051 McNeill Hall
- April 17-19:** Easter Holiday. No classes
- April 18:** Research Day Dinner, Madeline Suite
- April 19:** Research Day Presentations. Burney Center
- April 21:** Undergraduate Council Meeting. 1051 McNeill Hall

*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

Happy holidays, one and all! My, how the time flies – fall commencement has come and gone and my five months as your interim leader is at an end.

It has been my pleasure to work with our wonderful faculty, staff and students. I thank each and every one of them for their support and encouragement this fall. Together, we steered this ship toward many successes.

Our RN pass-rates continue to be above both the national and state averages. Our newly redesigned RN-to-BS online program has blossomed into delivering baccalaureate education to more than 150 practicing registered nurses. Our family nurse practitioner program now enrolls more than 90 nurses who will provide the expert primary care citizens of our region deserve. Our M.S. program in clinical research has been redesigned to include a focus on biostatistics, while our B.S. in clinical research will be providing an option to math majors for a minor in clinical research. Our faculty members continue to increase their contributions to improving patient care outcomes - both through their expert guidance of students and through the publication and presentation of their leading-edge approaches.

Our 11 new faculty members have not only settled-in, but have also made new and lasting ties to our sister college-schools. Social work and nursing students are learning together in the simulation center. Recreation therapy faculty and pediatric nursing faculty look forward to enhancing experiences on our county's Miracle Field. Interdisciplinary research and grant writing has begun. Our graduating nursing students presented their very generous class gift to Lower Cape Fear Hospice.

In closing, I thank our alumni and donors for their support of our school. Without your continued interest and encouragement, we would lose our momentum. Knowing that you are cheering us on and participating in our successes spurs us to soar to even greater heights.

I will miss everyone in McNeill Hall and realize that as **Debbie Pollard** takes over the reins as interim director, all of you will continue your support of this school's endeavors. I wish all of you only the very best in 2014!



## Deborah Pollard to Serve as the New Interim Director



**Deborah Pollard** has been appointed the interim director of the School of Nursing. **Pollard**, the current associate director and prelicensure chair, will assume her new role on Jan. 1 as the search for a new director of the School of Nursing continues. Information on Pollard's academic and professional background are presented on the final page.

## Notable Achievements

Congratulations to several of the nursing faculty for achieving major career milestones:

**Stephanie Turrise** obtained her Ph.D. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. On Nov. 13, Turrise successfully defended her dissertation “Illness Representations, Treatment Beliefs, Medication Adherence and Hospital Readmission in Elderly Individuals with Chronic Heart Failure”. **Turrise** is pictured at right (center) surrounded by the members of her dissertation committee.

**Marge Verzella** and **Patty White** passed the Certified Nurse Educator examination, administered through the National League for Nursing.

**Tammy Arms** passed the Psychology Nurse Practitioner certification exam through ANCC .



**Susan Sinclair** (pictured left) made a presentation at the Liver Meeting, the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in Washington, D.C., Nov. 2-5. Her citation for this presentation is: “An Update from the Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry: What have we learned after 9 years of enrollment?” Co-authors include: **J. Jones**, **R. Miller**, **P. Kwo**, **M. Greene**, **P. Thorpe** and **W. Maddrey**.

**April Mathias** (pictured right) presented a research poster, “The Entry Level RN Debate: Historical Barriers Prevent Resolution”, at the 30th annual conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing: The Art and Rhythm of Nursing Through the Years. The conference was held in Cleveland Sept. 26-29.



Faculty listed below made presentations at the 42nd annual biennial convention of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) on Nov. 18-19 in Indianapolis, Ind.

**Beth Gazza** presented “The Experiences of Doctoral Nursing Practice Students Scholarly Writing Development, Evidence-Based Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes for Scholarly Writing Development Across All Levels of Nursing Education.”



**Marge Verzella** and **RuthAnne Kuiper** presented “Evaluation of a Self-Directed E-Learning Module to Promote Informatics Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes in Registered Nurses and Nursing Students.” Also, two SON alumni made presentations at the STTI convention: **Cynthia Schweizer** on “Self-regulated Learning and Clinical Reasoning in Baccalaureate Nursing Students During Acute Care Versus Community Based Clinical Experiences.” **Stephanie Wright** on “Flying with Eagles: A Nurse Educator’s Voyage of Leadership Development.” **RuthAnne Kuiper** was co-author on both projects. (Pictured left is from left to right: **Kuiper**, **Schweizer** and **Verzella**)

One Nu Omega Chapter member also made a presentation: **Alice Matthews** on “Nurses’ Behavioral Responses to Patients’ Spiritual Requests in Rural Southeastern North Carolina.” **Jeanne Kemppainen** was the co-author.



## Notable Achievements, cont'd

In addition to her STTI presentation, Beth Gazza (pictured right) made three additional presentations during the fall semester. The citations are as follows:

Gazza, E. A. (2013, November). "Faculty vitality: Keeping the drive alive." Peer reviewed presentation of research at ninth annual South Eastern Nursing Staff Education Symposium, Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

Gazza, E. A. (2013, September). "Advancing nursing practice through scholarly writing." Invited presentation at Sigma Theta Tau International Nu Omega Chapter Education Day, UNCW.

Hunker, D., Gazza, E. A., & Shellenbarger, T. (2013, November). "Evidence-based knowledge, skills and attitudes for scholarly writing development across all levels of nursing education." Peer reviewed poster presentation at STTI 42<sup>nd</sup> biennial convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

Gazza also published in a peer-review journal:

Gazza, E. A., Hunker, D. F., & Shellenbarger, T. (2013). "Advancing the quality and safety of radiology and imaging nursing practice through scholarly writing." *Journal of Radiology Nursing*, 32, 114-119. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jradnu.2012.09.002>



Honor student **Melissa Alexander**, Dec. '13, presented a poster, titled "Descriptive Analysis of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms in Minority Women with HIV Disease Living in Rural Southeastern North Carolina", at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Nurses in AIDS Care International Conference held in Atlanta, Ga, Nov. 21-23. **Alexander**, the recipient of a Paul E. Hosier Undergraduate Fellowship, received a travel award from the Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CSURF) to present her poster. She is one of the first nursing students to present at an international conference. Pictured from left to right is faculty advisor **Paula Reid**, **Alexander** and faculty advisor **Jeanne Kempainen**.

Graduate faculty **Julie Taylor Smith**, **Susan Marshall**, **Diane Pastor** and **Traci Bramlett** hosted the Family Nurse Practitioner students onsite for one of the seminar days during the students' final clinical course, Advanced Clinical Practicum. **Pastor** also presented an evidence-based session on "How to Have Difficult Conversations in Primary Care."

**Patty White** (pictured right) presented her poster, "Transformative Nursing Education Utilizing Student-Driven Pediatric Simulation" at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Baccalaureate Education Conference in New Orleans on Nov. 21-23.

SON alumna **Beth Hodshon**, JD, MPH, BSN '94 completed her fifth year as an outcomes research at Yale University Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation. She and her colleagues presented an abstract titled "Quality of Discharge Summaries in Patients Hospitalized with Heart Failure Exacerbation" accepted for presentation at the American Heart Association Quality of Care and Outcomes Scientific Sessions in Dallas. **Hodshon** and her colleagues published "A Historic Moment for Open Science: The Yale University Open Data Access Project and Medtronic" in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The citation is as follows:

Krumholtz, H.M., Ross, J.S., Gross, C. P., Emanuel, E.J., Hodshon, B., Ritchie, J.D., Low, J. B., Lehman, R. (2013) A historic moment for open science: The Yale University open data access project and medtronic, *Ann Intern Med* 159(12:910-1).



## Notable Recognition



**Barbara Lutz**, McNeill Distinguished Professor, received the 2013 Competence in Aging Award from the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN) during the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions meeting in November. This award recognizes members of the CVSN who have distinguished themselves in promoting competence in caring for elderly cardiovascular or stroke patients through teaching, research, and/or practice. **Lutz** has an ongoing program of research that focuses on developing programs to address the needs of individuals recovering from stroke and their family caregivers.

## Congratulations to the Newest Inductees of the Nu Omega Chapter, STTI

Congratulations to the following students and nurse leaders for their Nov. 1 induction into the Nu Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing:



Prelicensure Inductees (pictured above):

- |                           |                          |                            |                        |                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Melissa Alexander</b>  | <b>Emily Esslinger</b>   | <b>Amanda Kelly</b>        | <b>Sara Perez</b>      | <b>Briana Sorensen</b>     |
| <b>Meredith Armstrong</b> | <b>Morgan Fisher</b>     | <b>Sarah Lamere</b>        | <b>Kristin Pownall</b> | <b>Desiree Stienhilber</b> |
| <b>Lauren Black</b>       | <b>Daneal Frank</b>      | <b>Eunchong Lee</b>        | <b>Giselle Pymonto</b> | <b>Zachary Switzer</b>     |
| <b>Kathy Browder</b>      | <b>Ameron Fussell</b>    | <b>Rachel Leonard</b>      | <b>Caitlin Rook</b>    | <b>Courtney Thacker</b>    |
| <b>Sara Burgess</b>       | <b>Caitlyn Gallagher</b> | <b>Hannah Lewis</b>        | <b>Lauren Rosa</b>     | <b>Laura Thomas</b>        |
| <b>Caroline Byers</b>     | <b>Katelyn Gamache</b>   | <b>Betty Mauney</b>        | <b>Sandra Rosales</b>  | <b>Taylor Thompson</b>     |
| <b>Petro Christofoli</b>  | <b>Adrienne Hahn</b>     | <b>Lauren May</b>          | <b>Jessica Rudolph</b> | <b>Kelly Tolman</b>        |
| <b>Isabel Cifuentes</b>   | <b>Marley Halbert</b>    | <b>Katherine McIlmoyle</b> | <b>Danielle Rush</b>   | <b>Kaitlyn Trythall</b>    |
| <b>Stacey Cole</b>        | <b>Alice Halliday</b>    | <b>Samantha Meeks</b>      | <b>Lauren Ruth</b>     | <b>Mackenzie Weis</b>      |
| <b>Katie Denner</b>       | <b>Kevin Holmes</b>      | <b>Kaitlyn Monahan</b>     | <b>Kayla Sadler</b>    | <b>Chiaki Williams</b>     |
| <b>Veronic Domeyer</b>    | <b>Sarah Jenkins</b>     | <b>Shannon Morris</b>      | <b>Chelsey Smith</b>   | <b>Bethany Wolfe</b>       |
| <b>Jennie Duncan</b>      | <b>Meredith Johnson</b>  | <b>Clarissa Morrissey</b>  | <b>Erin Smothers</b>   | <b>Victoria Wolski</b>     |

### RN to BS Inductees:

**Matthew Flinchum**                      **Stephanie Shea** (pictured center)

### Master of Science Candidates:

**Nancy Boehm**                      **Jamie Ham**                      **Catherine Williams**

### Nurse Leader Inductees:

**Tamatha Arms** (pictured left)    **Helen Thornton** (pictured right)



## Congratulations to the December 2013 Graduates!

### Master of Science Graduates

#### Clinical Research

Ryan Hunter Gilmore

Amanda Anne Brown Mountford

#### Family Nurse Practitioner

Elizabeth Virginia Bell  
Heather Wynne Black \*  
Stephen Charles Blackmon  
Courtney Cole Chostner  
Jena Lynn Coltrane \*  
Cassandra Willis Davis  
Amy Nicole Denson

Elena Louise Diffin  
Kathryn Humphrey Dries  
Laurie Ann Edwards \*  
Amy Laura Espinoza  
Jessica Hasty Harris  
Wendy Johnston Hartsoe  
Susan Blair Hill \*  
Casey Joy Hodgins

Marshall Yvette Moore  
Jessica West Peluso  
Tricia Leigh Reich \*  
Emily Tardio Sanchez  
Shannon Rae Snyder  
Dana Spence Wade

#### Family Nurse Practitioner Post Master's Certificate

Lizabeth Herman Shore

### Bachelor of Science Graduates

RN/BS Martha Crystal Byrd

Meredith Montgomery

#### Prelicensure

Melissa Dawn Alexander \*~Φ  
Elizabeth Day Blanchard  
Haley Paige Brothers  
Nicole Lee Bulmer  
Sara Victoria Burgess +\* > Ψ  
Meghan Elizabeth Callaghan  
Ashley Elizabeth Carpenter  
Kerstan Arianna Chadwick  
Pietro Joseph Christofoli \*  
Isabel Margarita Cifuentes \*  
Caroline Edna Cornatzer  
Katie Lauren Denner \*  
Katherine Rebecca Dillon +  
Jennie Degroote Duncan \*  
Emily Elizabeth Fitzgerald  
Daneal Michelle Frank \*

Ameron Scott Fussell \*\*  
Erika Yountz Futch  
Jacob Samuel Goldstein  
Amanda Renee Hamrick +  
Katherine Brooke Holland  
Kevin Andrew Holmes \*  
Megan Elizabeth Kern  
Devon Michelle Kerner  
Sarah Jane Lamere \*  
Rachel Elizabeth Leonard \*  
Crystal Leigh Manning  
Katherine R. McGonigle  
Katherine Anne McIlmoyle +\*  
Katherine Elizabeth McMahon  
Megan Claire O'Connell  
Ashley Michelle Perry  
Lindsay Mae Powers

Samantha Rea Rasmussen  
Katherine Virginia Lee Ratcliff Φ  
Olivia Marie Rogers +  
Lauren Aileen Rosa \*  
Sandra Pauline Rosales \*  
Jessica Ann Rudolph \* > Ψ  
Caitlin Michelle Schultice  
Martin Deems Sills  
Morgan Elizabeth Starkey +  
Jensen Amanda Starnes +Φ  
Laura Rose Sullivan  
Courtney Jo Ann Thacker \*  
Nicole Marie Tschudi +  
Mackenzie Byrne Weis \* >  
Victoria Anne Wolski \*  
Hayley Joy Yeargin

~ Departmental Honors

+ North Carolina Nurse Scholar

\* Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society

> Sigma Alpha Lambda National Honor Society

Ú Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society

\*\* Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Ψ Psi Chi Honor Society

Φ Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society



## Reflection Day-Fall 2013



Each semester, the undergraduate pediatrics and community nursing courses collaborate to engage students in learning the art of nursing through their reflective projects. Each student chooses a client who made an impression upon him or her during the community or pediatric clinical rotations then presents a written paper and an original fine-arts expression on understanding the “whole” person to faculty and peers during a special presentation event. This semester’s Reflection Day featured a variety of expressions and talent.

**Sarah Howe**, May ’14, was inspired by a three-year-old boy at the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Preschool. Having been diagnosed with mixed cerebral palsy, this client was unable to express himself verbally nor participate in his environment. According to **Howe**, the child “seemed to emotionally connect with other children.” In order to better access his environment and possibly learn to communicate, he needed to use adaptive assistive communication devices, but due to financial cuts UCP was unable to fund the purchase of these items.

After contemplating the needs of her client, **Howe** reached out to the Wilmington community for help. To her surprise, donors with whom she spoke gave more money than was requested. Then the specific communication devices, chosen by the UCP staff, were ordered. On Nov. 22, **Howe**, representing the College of Health and Human Services, donated three separate adaptive assistive communication devices (and a lot of batteries) to UCP. A slide show set to the music of Louis Armstrong’s *What a Wonderful World* was presented by **Howe** at Reflection Day. The presentation tells the story of the young handicapped child with extreme limitations and his introduction to his new learning devices.

**Howe** (pictured above at left) presented the adaptive assistive devices to UPC education coordinator **Krista Blessing**.

## ANS Formal is a Huge Success

The Association of Nursing Students (ANS) formal was held Dec. 3 with 120 people in attendance. Attendees raised \$1,500 for Guardians of the Ribbon, a local organization that aids women who are combating cancer and their families. Funding helps cancer victims and their families pay the costs of medications and utility bills. Pictured at right are graduating seniors at the event.



## People of Peru Project

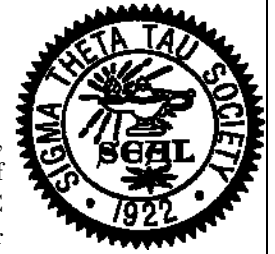


Fourteen nursing students and three faculty members will be traveling to Peru over spring break. It looks to be a very exciting trip with the People of Peru Project. The group will fly to Lima, Peru, and on to Iquitos in northern Peru. They will spend five days in Belen Iquitos, known as the floating city, providing health care and making home visits. While there, students and faculty will travel by boat down the Amazon River to a small community offering needed health services. From Iquitos the group will fly to Cusco where they will spend a night and then begin their travels through the Sacred Valley and on to Machu Picchu, said to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World and known as the “Lost City of the Incas.” They will return to Lima on Sunday taking an overnight flight back to the states on Monday.

## Sigma Theta Tau News

### International 42nd Biennial Convention

At the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual STTI convention in November, new STTI president **Hester C. Klopper**, PhD, MBA, RN, RM FANSA, was elected. She is the first international president from South Africa. Region 13 (of which the Nu Omega Chapter is a part) re-elected president **Jane Lutz**, MS, PHCNS-BC, RN, from UNC Greensboro. The convention had many good speakers and presentations. The bylaws changes were minor and approved quickly without much discussion.



Two major initiatives were discussed during the biennial convention that are relevant to the UNCW Nu Omega Chapter:

1. The Chapter Sustainability Pyramid and You: Utilizing this Resource in Your Role, in which specific strategies are located on the STTI website; and
2. Presidential Call to Action 2013-15 – specific examples for local, regional and global levels on the STTI website.

### Nu Omega Chapter Plans Upcoming Educational Program

The Nu Omega Board of Directors has planned an education program on Jan. 21 to focus on mental illness in adolescents and college students. The program will feature two NIMH sponsored guest speakers. They are **Colleen Russell**, RN, who works in the adolescent unit at Moses Cone Hospital, and her daughter **BethAnn**, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 17 and has learned to cope and live independently. The program will be held 6-7:30 p.m. in the McNeill Hall auditorium.

### Simulation Learning Center (SLC) Activities Continue to Increase

The SLC has been very active over the fall semester with numerous graduate and undergraduate clinical courses. Nurse practitioner students successfully completed head-to-toe physical assessments. Senior prelicensure students experienced various simulations, including an emergency department gunshot victim. Foundations course instructor **Kelly Laham** had each of her clinical students practice giving medications using simulated medication records. End-of-semester simulations for other med/surg clinical courses took place in early December. Students in the mental health course interacted with a standardized patient involved in a hoarding scenario in the home care lab and another simulation involved a client under the influence of drugs. The maternity students had role playing scenarios for the delivery of an infant born in distress and needing stabilization.



The SLC faculty and staff met with 10 standardized patients who are trained community volunteers available to play the parts of patients for scripted simulations. These individuals are able to play designated patient roles as needed. Already two standardized patients have been used for an inter-collaborative simulation involving nursing students and social work students.

Students report enriched learning with simulation experience. Videotaping each scenario also provides an excellent positive learning tool as students find it beneficial to observe their performances during debriefing discussions.

### News from the Office of Student Success

The Office of Student Success is in the process of hiring four student success advisors. Applications for the positions closed on Dec. 6. On-campus candidate interviews will begin in mid-January.

The deadline for applications for the prelicensure cohort to begin nursing studies in August 2014 closed Dec. 15. Decisions are expected to be delivered during the first half of January.

### Doctor of Nursing Practice Proposal Update

The proposed DNP program cannot be approved until the current UNCW mission statement is changed. The UNCW mission is as a master's comprehensive institution with two or less doctoral degrees. This mission statement and classification requires a change by the UNC General Administration before UNCW can add any additional doctoral degrees. The proposal for this change is not expected to occur before January 2014.

## Deborah Pollard Named Interim Director



**Deborah Pollard** has been appointed the interim director of the School of Nursing. **Pollard**, who has served on the SON faculty since 2004, has more than 30 years of nurse educator experience, six years in diploma education and 24 years in baccalaureate and graduate education programs. She has held numerous administrative positions at UNCW: Prelicensure Program coordinator, assistant department chair, and associate director. Prior to coming to UNCW, **Pollard** taught for 14 years at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.Va.

**Pollard** received a diploma in nursing from the Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing in West Virginia, a BSN from West Liberty University, a MSN from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. She holds certifications in inpatient obstetrics, fetal monitoring, lactation, neonatal resuscitation and nursing education. **Pollard** also serves in numerous capacities within the community: chair of the Nurses' Day Celebration Committee, treasurer of the Nu Omega Chapter of STTI, treasurer for the Tri-County Breastfeeding Coalition and program reviewer for national accreditation. She serves as a grant reviewer for N.C. March of Dimes and serves as an item-writer for the international lactation consultant exam committee. **Pollard** completed the BRIDGES: Academic Leadership for Women professional development program in 2010. She was named Faculty of the Year for the School of Nursing in 2007 and 2009, and received the Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award in 2013.

**Pollard's** program of research is an expansion of her dissertation related to interventions promoting breastfeeding duration and exclusivity. Additional research interests are focused on postpartum depression and the role of self-efficacy in breastfeeding duration in term and preterm infants.

## Class Gift Presented to LCFH

The prelicensure class of Dec. '13 presented a gift of \$1,000 on Sept. 16 to **Josie Butler**, development manager of Lower Cape Fear Hospice. The funds are designated to be used for nursing educational supplies. CHHS Dean **Charles Hardy** and School of Nursing Interim Director **Susan Pierce** were present when class officers and fellow classmates presented the check. Class officers are: **Kevin Holmes**, president; **Katie Ratcliff**, vice president, **Carly Cornatzer**, secretary, **Katie Mellmoyle**, treasurer, and **Devon Kerner**, social chair. **Sandra O'Donnell** is the faculty class advisor. All 49 members of the graduating class participated in fundraising efforts to make the generous donation to LCFH.



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

**Final Lingering Thought . . .**

**Have a Joyous Holiday!**

