Bienvenito from Arequipa, Peru!

Dr. Kae Livsey is leading our group of 21 students along with Ms. Roberta Allred, Dr. Jennifer Horan from the Department of Public and International Affairs at UNCW, my husband, Dr. Clark Luikart, and me on this three week service-learning project. We have become a close-knit group of 26! The student blogs and pictures on our school's Web page describe well the home visits, child care, clinic, and health survey experiences. I will try to comment a bit on the impact of all of that.

We are humbled. We feel extraordinarily blessed and privileged. We are exceedingly impressed by the fortitude, love and positive outlook of the Arequipians. Yes, and there is some guilt as well -- as one student said: “Do I really need those six pairs of jeans?” You would be proud of the generosity and commitment of these UNCW nursing students. They are sharing much love and getting much back in return.

I would be most remiss if I closed this message without mentioning the dedication and tireless efforts of Father Alex Busuttil. He not only has addressed every need and want of all 26 of us -- what a host! -- but his ingenuity in building a true community among the people of Alta Cayma, Arequipa shines! His ideas of people helping themselves and helping their neighbors, while respecting the human dignity of each individual have allowed his work to live out his motto of “peace through service.” My thanks to Father Alex for inspiring us all.

Hasta luego for now.

Images from Peru . . . .
Notable Achievements

Brandi Mechling, Ph.D. candidate at UNC Chapel Hill, recently presented her projected dissertation topic, "The Experiences of Young Careers of Mentally Ill Parents," at the Southern Nursing Society Research conference in Baltimore, Md. The poster presentation was compiled from a literature review, entitled "Gaps in Understanding the Experiences of Young Careers of Mentally Ill Parents: Results of an Integrative Literature Review."

Mosby’s *Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Online Review* has been selected as the recommended review by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Dr. Jane Fox is the content editor and primary author. During Mar. 23-26, Dr. Fox participated in the Health Resources and Services Administration Advanced Education Nursing Program Review. She has been asked to serve again as a Peer Reviewer for the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Melissa A selage has received acceptance of her first publication entitled, “An evolutionary analysis of mealtime difficulties in older adults with dementia,” in the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. Of note was the acceptance of her article without revisions.

Notable Recognition

Kelsey Durham (May ‘09) has been selected to present her honors research study on Capitol Hill on May 5, for the 2009 Posters on the Hill. Her project, “Experiences of Certified Nurse Midwives in providing Culturally Competent Care to Hispanic Women in Southeastern North Carolina,” was among the 60 abstracts selected from across the U.S. This event is the 13th annual undergraduate poster session on Capitol Hill and is sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). This opportunity will help members of Congress understand the importance of undergraduate research by talking directly with the students whom these programs impact. Kelsey and her honors advisor, Dr. Debbie Pollard, will be traveling to Washington, D.C., May 4-6.

Nichole Connor (CLR, May ‘09) has recently begun her work as a clinical research associate for RTI International in Raleigh. She is working a study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control, “Legacy for Children,” in which mother-child interactions are being explored.

Melanie Parsons is a recipient of the Senior Medallion, the most prestigious award presented by the Division of Student Affairs on behalf of the university community. Criteria for this award include: 1) record of significant campus involvement over the course of an undergraduate experience, 2) academic achievement of 3.0 G.P.A. or higher, 3) demonstrated commitment to improving the university community through collaborative leadership and service and 4) evidence of personal character noted for integrity, fortitude and unselfishness and 5) embodiment of spirit, which exemplifies a passion for supporting and encouraging a campus community that is purposeful, open, disciplined, just, diverse and caring.

Christie Deaton (May ‘09) recently received the UNCW Distinguished Service Award and has been nominated for the UNCW Cornerstone Senior Medallion.

Update on the New Building

The soil of the building site is currently being compacted to improve its density and load-bearing capacity. The foundation work is expected to begin in April. The construction phase is projected to be one year with building completion scheduled for April ’10 and occupancy for the Fall ’10 semester.
Welcome to our Newest Faculty and Student Services Director

Welcome to our newest additions to the Administration and Faculty!

Dr. Cathi Cox is a retired captain in the U.S. Navy. Initially hired this semester to teach on a part-time basis NSG 403 (Adult Health II), she will come on board full time in the Fall '09 as an assistant professor. She earned her MSN from Marymount University in '88 and her Ph.D. in Nursing from George Mason University in '02. Dr. Cox has exceptional experiences in adult health critical care nursing in national and international military hospitals. During the past year, she provided direct bedside care for critically ill adult patients in a military hospital while her family was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Dr. Cox also has approximately seven years of teaching experience at the undergraduate level in courses in the care of children and adults with complex problems across the continuum. Her funded research is in the areas of: “The Retention of Recalled Navy Nurse Reservists Following Operation Iraqi Freedom” and “Shipboard Nursing on Aircraft Carriers: The Lived Experience of Twelve Navy Nurses.” She has a well-developed scholarship program with numerous publications and presentations in the areas of critical care, qualitative research and military nursing. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Cox on our team.

Ms. Marti Medina comes to us most recently from Florida International University as an Assistant Dean for Academic Administration in the College of Education. She received her B.S. in public administration in '82 and a M.S. in Education in '94. She has filled roles in student services departments since '88. Ms. Medina has teaching experience at the college level as a classroom instructor for the first year experience in undergraduate studies, preparing for student success, student support seminars, study skills and Spanish for health professionals. She has also participated in accreditation activities related to student services input, worked with institutional research areas to provide continuous improvement and oversight of student academic policies, and has experience with student retention initiatives. Ms. Medina brings a wealth of experience with her to UNCW, and she will be a great asset to the School of Nursing.

2009 Camp BONES: Victim Volunteer Event

The weekend of March 14 was an absolute disaster...a mock disaster that is! Several students and instructors from the SON and Camp BONES teamed up with the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) for a day of fun, “pretend blood” and gory re-enactments. Volunteers from the SON, Camp BONES and SMAT served as patient transporters, victims and rescuers in a mock simulation of a mass casualty event held on the UNCW campus adjacent to Wagoner Hall. Lead by SON instructor Debbie Ezzell, victims were “moulaged,” ranging from severe burns, to glass stuck in the body, bleeding appendages, black eyes and smoke inhalation. Explosion education was taught as a courtesy of UNCW Emergency Management followed by a “debriefing” from SMAT team leaders. After this year’s success, teachers, students and other participants are looking forward with anticipation and excitement to the next mock disaster.
Second Annual UNCW Youth Health Summit

On March 13, 317 middle school students from seven N.C. counties and representing 17 different Southeastern N.C. schools, congregated on campus to learn health tips and decision-making strategies. During interactive workshops designed and taught by 30 Camp BONES participants, the students discussed sensitive teen health issues such as pregnancy and substance abuse.

Prior to the student-led workshops, keynote speaker Kwain Bryant, CEO of Empowerment Exchange, a Charlotte-based consulting firm that aids organizations with leadership training and development strategies, addressed the summit participants. Students also heard from various N.C. leaders, including Dr. Harry Marshall, trauma surgeon at UNC Hospitals, who explored non-violent conflict resolution.

Major funding for the second annual Youth Health Summit was provided by the N.C. GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. Both the Summit and Camp BONES are part of the SON’s Nursing and Health Academy program for community partnerships.

Class of December ’10 Elects Officers

Pictured in back row from left: Jenny Curry (Social Committee chair), Megan Miller (treasurer), Janie Dowda (Social Committee), Kelly Young (secretary), Sabrina Fuentes (Prelicensure Council representative); front row from left: Rosemarie Wyatt (Social Committee), Merri Gray Jones (secretary, Student Affairs Committee representative, Social Committee) and Kathryn Radle (president).

Lingering Thought

If you can’t do it with love and cheerfulness, don’t do it at all—go home.

Mother Teresa