Upcoming Fall Dates:

Sept. 1: Labor Day. No classes.
Sept. 10: CHHS Convocation. McNeill Hall grounds. 4-6 p.m.
Sept. 16: Sigma Theta Tau Board Meeting. NRHMC. 5 p.m.
Oct. 13-14: Fall Break.
Oct. 17: Pre-licensure Council. 1038 McNeill Hall. 3-4 p.m.
Oct. 23: Sigma Theta Tau Induction Orientation. 1051 McNeill Hall. 5-6 p.m.
Nov. 6: Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony. Burney Center—Room C. 6-8 p.m.
Nov. 7: Sigma Theta Tau Research Day. 1051 McNeill Hall. 8:30-12 noon.
Nov. 11: SON Faculty Meeting. 1051 McNeill Hall. 3:30-5 p.m.
Nov. 18: Undergraduate (Prelicensure) Council Meeting. 1028 McNeill Hall. 3-5 p.m.
Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes.
Dec. 3: Last day of classes.
Dec. 5-11: Final Exams.

Greetings from the Interim Director

We are excited to begin the 2014-15 academic year. Last year the School of Nursing had many accomplishments, just to name a few: 98 percent first time NCLEX pass rate for the May PreLicensure Class; 100 percent certification pass rate for the December FNP class; a six-fold increase in the enrollment in the RN-BS program; and many accomplishments of faculty in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship. The faculty exceeded expectations by having 61 manuscripts accepted for publication, 60 professional presentations, 17 internal grants, and seven external grants.

This year we will continue to focus on our excellence across all programs. One new program on the horizon is the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), pending state approval. Appendix A (phase I of the approval process) for the DNP program was approved by UNC General Administration this summer and Appendix C (phase II of the approval process) is being finalized for submission.

Welcome to Students and Faculty!

We welcome back 67 returning graduate students, 241 prelicensure students and 380 RN-BS students. We welcome our newest students: 45 in the FNP program, an additional 80 to begin Oct. 20 in the RN-BS program and 50 in the prelicensure program. The clinical research program is adding an additional 50 undergraduate students for the fall 2014 semester and 12 new graduate students.

The Ice Bucket Challenge Comes to the School of Nursing!

The Ice Bucket Challenge phenomenon that has spread across the county has come to the School of Nursing. Pictured below are the latest among several Ice Bucket Challenge events at the College of Health and Human Services: the challenge presented to the prelicensure class of Dec. ‘14 and their clinical instructors.
Notable Recognition:

Jeanne Kemppainen, UNCW Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Nursing, is one of 168 nurse leaders selected for induction as a fellow by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). AAN serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis and dissemination of nursing knowledge.

The fellowships, announced on June 23, are highly selective and considered the highest honor in the nursing profession. The induction ceremony will take place at the AAN’s 2014 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference on Oct. 18 in Washington, D.C.

The 2,200 AAN fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice and research and they represents all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 24 countries. Selection criteria include evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care and sponsorship by two current academy fellows. Applicants are reviewed by a panel comprised of elected and appointed fellows, and selection is based, in part, on the extent the nominee’s nursing career has influenced health policies and the health and wellbeing of all.

Kemppainen has a distinguished record of teaching and scholarship in the field of mental health and HIV/AIDS nursing. She was the 2013 recipient of the UNCW Honors Faculty Mentor Award.

In Oct. 2013, Megan P. Williams (May ‘98), MSN, RN, FNP, was installed as the 51st president of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA). NCNA is the leading professional nurse organization representing the interests of the more than 100,000 registered nurses in North Carolina. Elected during the NCNA annual meeting, Williams has served as a member of NCNA’s Board of Directors (2012-14) and as a president of the NCNA Triangle Region before being elected to her term as NCNA president.

Williams has over 15 years of experience in adult and pediatric nursing, as a staff nurse, family nurse practitioner, and educator. She holds a bachelor’s of science in nursing from UNCW, a master of science in nursing from Duke University and is certified as a family nurse practitioner. Williams is currently employed as a clinical assistant professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing. In 2012, Williams received the UNCW School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni Award.

Congratulations to Danielle Battle (RN-BS student), who was recently appointed chairperson of the Resolutions Committee of the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA).

2014 Gerontological Nursing Student Leadership Award

Alicia Iammatteo (May ’15) and Casey Patula (May ’15), pictured at right, were named as recipients of the 2014 Gerontological Nursing Student Leadership Award from the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA). They were among three students selected from a national pool to receive this honor based on their submitted essays describing their respective passions for working with the older adult. Following her undergraduate studies, Iammatteo plans to pursue graduate students as a geriatric nurse practitioner. Patula hopes to return to work at Duke University Hospital and work with geriatric pulmonary transplant patients. A special thanks to Tammy Arms for serving as their faculty mentor and sponsor. Both students will receive their awards at the NGNA convention in Oct. 2-4 in San Antonio, Texas.
News from the Clinical Research Program

Fifty undergraduate students entered the Clinical Research Program (CLR) this semester. This non-nursing program prepares students for careers in the biopharmaceutical research industry. The CLR degree is of particular interest in North Carolina with the high volume of contract research organizations in the Wilmington and Research Triangle Park areas. One key strength of the undergraduate program is the senior internship. During both semesters of the senior year students spend approximately 14 hours each week in a clinical research organization gaining valuable hands-on experience, mastering learning objectives, and contributing to the work of the organization. Barbara Pennington leads the internship and has spent the summer placing nearly 50 seniors in companies from Wilmington to St. Paul, Minn. Examples of internship hosts include: PPD, Chiltern, PMG Research, Trial Management Associates, INC Research, SEAHEC, PharPoint, Novella Clinical, Osmotica, Naval Hospital Camp LeJeune, Quintiles (RTP) and Prism Clinical Research (MN). CLR faculty and students are grateful to the internship hosts.

For students majoring in other areas with an interest in clinical research, a minor in the Clinical Research program is available. In addition, students pursuing a minor in entrepreneurship and innovation may take one to two clinical research courses as part of this minor.

The master’s degree in clinical research will add another 12 graduate students to its roster this fall. Since the program began in Jan. 2011, 13 students have graduate with an MS in clinical research and product development. This program targets working professionals with clinical research industry experience. This online program is coordinated by Jim Lyon.

News from the Office of Student Services

The admissions of students into the various programs continues to become more competitive. According to Mark Werbeach, director of the Office of Student Services (OSS), there were 132 eligible applicants for 50 prelicensure slots. The average GPA for math/science was 3.96, and for the non-math/science GPA, it was 3.89 with an average TEAS score of 84.7. Congratulations to these students for their acceptance and hard work.

The OSS has recently hired three new advisors. Please see page 7 for further information. The OSS will be advising pre-social work students, along with our current pre-nursing, pre-clinical research, and RN to BS students.

Preclicensure Clinical News

Marge Verzella, prelicensure clinical coordinator, reports that the School of Nursing has expanded its clinical affiliations to include Brunswick Memorial Hospital. Questions concerning this clinical affiliation should be directed to contact Verzella or Anne-Marie Goff, prelicensure program coordinator.

NCLEX and FNP Passing Rates

The NCLEX passing rate for the May 2014 cohort was 98 percent. The family nurse practitioner passing rate was 100 percent. Congratulations to students and faculty for a job well done!
Notable Achievements:

Congratulations to Robin Cunningham, Michelle McEwen-Campbell and Kally Laham for successfully passing the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) examination and becoming certified as a CNE.

Marge Verzella presented a lecture June 17 at the Coastal Carolina School Nurse Symposium hosted by South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) titled: “Triage as a School Nurse - Mass Casualty Incident.”

Megan Lill, an RN-BS student, published a letter to the editor in the May 2014 (Vol. 23) of the American Journal of Critical Care. Lill’s letter was a supportive response to the editorial “Avoiding the Critical Care Nursing Brain Drain” published in Vol. 22. The letter was an assignment in the spring 2014 course in “Professional Nursing Practice for the Baccalaureate Nurse.” The letter indicated how the editorial enhanced her attitude as far as advancing her education with the baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Diane Pastor participated over the summer as a nursing faculty member in the training for the Community Engagement Research Fellowship (CERF), a new initiative in College of Health and Human Services (CHHS), to network and partner with a community organization locally. Pastor’s team, who is working with the New Hanover Health Department on a peer mentoring program, consisted of two CHHS students: Amanda Foster in the FNP program and Kelsey Ross in the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences (HAHS).

Recent publication citations of faculty include:


Healthy Body and Body Image Workshop

In May, April Matthias (pictured left) and Nancy Ahern (right) developed and implemented a Healthy Body & Body Image Workshop for middle school students in Pender County. Over two days they conducted the workshop with six separate physical education classes involving 141 students at West Pender Middle School. Students engaged in three interactive activities to enhance their knowledge concerning how they can maintain a healthy body and body image. The activities included a “Redefining Beautiful and Handsome with Selfies” activity, “Grabbing Healthy Snacks” game, and “Moving with the Movies” physical exercise. The workshops, supported by the Landfall Foundation, were completed in partnership with Pender Alliance for Teen Health (PATH) at the West Pender Middle School Health Center.
UNCW RN-BSN Students Participate in American Heart Lobby Day

Cindy Dequenne and Kathy Robinson supported the American Heart Lobby Day at the North Carolina legislature on May 28, 2014. The students were divided among the volunteers and met with state representatives and legislative aides. There were three main items on the agenda that participants were advocating: 1) support for the creation of a joint commission to study food “deserts” in North Carolina and potential solutions for this problem; 2) the appropriation of $1 million for Smoking Prevention within North Carolina with an additional $200,000 for the “You Quit, Two Quit” campaign to educate and train health care providers the means to help pregnant patients stop smoking; and 3) the appropriation of $50,000 to allow the work of the Stroke Advocacy Advisory Board to continue the work of decreasing stroke rates in North Carolina and improving stroke treatment through various means such as telemedicine. The students, who were provided training prior to the meetings and were able to distribute written materials, indicated that they were proud to represent the UNCW Nursing Program.

Pictured above are UNCW students Cindy Dequenne (left) and Kathy Robinson (center); and Betsy Vetter, senior director of government relations for the American Heart Associations (right).

Simulation Learning Center (SLC) News

The SLC has been able to obtain new hospital beds, over-bed and bedside tables, and exam tables for the Health Assessment Lab. It is now up-to-date with the other labs and equipment currently used in various healthcare settings. Nurse practitioner students have already begun use of the assessment lab, and feedback from students and faculty has been positive about the new equipment and lab improvements.

Throughout the summer the SLC team conducted tours for high school students. Students were introduced to each of the eight simulation labs. They were provided with an explanation of the purpose of the equipment and lab space and how students in nursing, social work, education, sports medicine and recreational therapy at UNCW use simulation in their respective courses. During one tour, 15 of these students were introduced to a short simulation involving a “patient” with asthma. The students were provided a brief scenario and it was explained what nursing students would do in a similar simulation and during the debriefing session for self-evaluation of performance.

The standardized patient roster has increased to 22 with seven of these community-trained volunteers having worked as nurses. The simulation staff is carefully tracking hours of each course using standardized patients in both simulation and in skills-learning labs.

The fall semester is off to a great start. The Adult Health I students have learned to check their blood glucose levels with equipment from the hospital and have completed visual assessments of room safety to note violations in safety that post potential harm to patients and staff. In addition, these students have been able to role play in calling and giving SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) reports. The Adult Health II students have completed their frontloading activities in preparation for the care of critically ill patients. Other prelicensure courses have utilized the labs for introductory activities.
Welcome to Our Newest Faculty

Charlotte “Elise” Thompson is a lecturer in the College of Health and Human Services. She teaches in the pre-licensure and the RN-BS program in the School of Nursing. Thompson is a registered nurse with a background in emergency nursing. She has experience as a triage nurse, charge nurse, preceptor, and assistant manager. Thompson received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the UNC-Charlotte and a master’s degree in nursing education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). She has experience as a course coordinator and a clinical instructor in acute care and skilled nursing facilities. She is currently a PhD candidate at UHM and her dissertation research compares high fidelity simulation, low fidelity simulation, and video training in first year undergraduate students in medication administration. She moved from Kailua, Hawaii and currently resides with her husband and daughter in Wilmington.

Rebecca “Susan” Crawford, a native North Carolinian, will serve as an assistant professor in the RN-BS program. She began her nursing career as an ADN in 1989 after graduating from Sampson Community College. She later obtained her BSN in an online RN-BSN program at Jacksonville University in 2005; her MSN with a focus on nursing education from Duke University in 2007 and in December 2013 completed her PhD in nursing from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Crawford’s focus has been on cardiovascular nursing throughout her professional career and her area of expertise is in the care/management of adults living with pacemakers and implantable cardiac defibrillators. Her dissertation research involved measuring health behavior beliefs, quality of life and self-efficacy related to physical activity in adults living with these life-saving devices. Her nursing education experience includes serving as clinical and classroom faculty at the University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Nursing and as director in an associate degree program in Santa Rosa, Calif. Crawford is married with three grown sons who live in Texas, Michigan and Alaska. She shares with us that she has two Yorkshire Terriers, loves the outdoors and like to remain physically active by biking, running (knee permitting) and gardening. She is also committed to being active with church and community activities.

Jared Kerr, the most recent addition to the Clinical Research Program as assistant professor, brings his talents to the program with concentration on project management, regulatory affairs, intellectual property, scientific writing, data analytics, and data visualization. His career focus has been in improving people’s health through innovation. He has over 17 years experience working in a variety of roles in pharmaceutical Research & Development, project management, academia, and state and federal governments. His educational background consists of a BS degree (microbiology) from Auburn University, a master’s in public health, international health-epidemiology from Emory University, a law degree from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University and certification in life sciences entrepreneurship from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Jane Anderson, a certified gerontological clinical nurse specialist and a Certified Nurse Educator, joins the faculty as lecturer in the RN-BSN program. Anderson received her MSN in advanced adult health with a certificate in gerontology from Radford University. This semester she begins work towards the DNP with George Washington University. Anderson has taught numerous undergraduate nursing courses at the College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina where she helped increase high fidelity simulation within the fundamentals course. She is working on a manuscript for an inter-professional activity between first year nursing students and second year pharmacy students. This work was presented at the 2013 Collaborating Across Borders International Conference in Vancouver, B.C. She has served on several executive boards for aging and respite care.

Anderson lives in the Calabash area with her mother and two dogs. She has two grown children: a son and a daughter.
Lolita Bryant, SON lecturer in the prelicensure program, has worked for more than 31 years for New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC). As a nursing supervisor and the administrative operations officer at the hospital, she has managed to work as part-time faculty with the SON for the past year and as part-time faculty for Cape Fear Community College for the past 10 years. Her area of expertise is in maternity nursing and in adult health. Bryant received her associate’s degree in nursing from James Sprunt Community College and graduated from UNCW in 2004 with her BSN. She was a recipient of the Duke Endowment Scholarship from NHRMC in 2008 and returned to UNCW to receive her MSN (2011) in nurse education. During the graduate research symposium, she was the recipient of the “Make a Difference Day” award where she was given the opportunity to present her graduate work Efficacy of a Postpartum Depression Education Program: Improving the Knowledge of Registered Nurses Practicing in Acute Care Settings at the N.C. Conference of Graduate Schools Raleigh. Bryant serves as secretary of the Executive Committee of the UNCW Alumni Board of Directors and is past chair of the African American Graduate Association (AAGA) from 2009-2011.

Three New Advisors Join the Office of Student Success

Jennine Strange, (pictured right) a new advisor in the Office of Student Success, has previous experience as an academic advisor for student-athletes at the University of Central Florida. Strange received a BS in exercise sports science from Elon University and an MS in college student affairs from Nova Southeastern University. In her free time, Strange enjoys spending time at the beach, running, and cheering on the Baltimore Ravens!

Prior to joining the Office of Student Success, Phil Hardy (pictured left) provided advising and programming support for transfer, veteran and first-year students at the University of South Carolina. He has previous advising experience in the community college system at Midlands Technical College. Hardy received a BA degree in government from Campbell University and a Master of Education degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina. Hardy reports that he enjoys meeting new people, spending time with friends and family, playing basketball, wearing bowties and exploring North Carolina.

Vicci White (pictured right) began her career as a K-12 teacher and coach. During the past 10 years and prior to joining the OSS staff as a student advisor, she has served as a career counselor at Occidental College in California and career manager at the University of Idaho. She received a BA degree in education at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington and her masters degree in college student affairs from Azusa Pacific University in California. When not at work White enjoys “puttering around the house,” playing cards, kayaking and enjoying the beach.

Welcome to our Newest Part-Time Faculty

We welcome the following part-time faculty to the School of Nursing: Lorna Bell-Kotwall, who will serve as one of the community nursing clinical instructors; Anne Zahriskie, who will serve as one of the Adult Health I clinical instructors; and Teri Askew-Jackson, who will serve as clinical faculty in the graduate nursing program.
Submission of the Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR)

Carol Heinrich and Nancy Ahern (Program Evaluation Chairman) wrote the Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR): Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs. The CIPR is the report that every CCNE-accredited (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) is required to submit at the mid-point of its accreditation term. The CIPR is one way that CCNE monitors accredited programs’ continued compliance with accreditation standards in between comprehensive on-site evaluations. The 50-page report was submitted prior to its due date of June 1 and feedback is expected to be received within the near future. Appreciation is extended to the authors of the report, namely Heinrich and Ahern, and to Debbie Pollard, RuthAnne Kuiper and Beth Gazza, who reviewed the report prior to its submission.

Welcome to the new Health and Human Services Librarian: John Osinski

John Osinski has been named the health and human services librarian for Randall Library. John joined the staff at Randall in February 1996 in the circulation department. Since then he has gained experience working in various departments in the library including reserves, electronic reserves, and special collections. John grew up on the Jersey Shore and has a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University and received his master’s degree in library science from North Carolina Central University. John was hired as a public services librarian/lecturer in 2007. Position of Health and Human Services Librarian was funded in order to better serve the College of Health and Human Services. In this role, John will provide instruction in research and information literacy. He will also work with faculty and students on research for publication, library collection development, citation analysis, workshops, and library resource seminars. To contact John, e-mail osinskij@uncw.edu or call 962.4271. His office is Room 2059 in Randall Library.

Update on the DNP Proposal

On Aug. 18 notification from the UNC General Administration was received indicating that the Appendix A for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) had been approved. Appendix A is the Request for Authorization to Plan a new Degree Program. Currently Appendix C, Request for Authorization to Establish a New Degree Program, is being finalized for submission. The review process and final decision on Appendix A is expected to take approximately 4 months.

International Travel: Belize in 2015

Another international travel/work experience is in the planning stage for prelicensure and FNP students. This medical mission trip will be to the country of Belize. Jane Fox and Susan Marshall will lead this expedition. More information will follow.

Please submit calendar and community events, news of research/scholarship activities and notable achievements and recognition to our editorial and production staff: Sandy O’Donnell or Debra Simpson.

Welcome to a New School Year!