Greetings from the Interim Director

With the start of the Spring ’15 semester, many changes have taken place in the SON. In January, I accepted the invitation to take on the role of interim school director. In this new administrative role I am excited to move our high-quality programs forward this semester. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the faculty, staff, and students that have come together to help me in this new academic role. We received notification from the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education confirming that all accreditation standards have been met for the prelicensure, RN-BS, and the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner programs – validating the consistent high quality of our nursing programs. This is a busy time for us in the SON with many faculty presenting their scholarship throughout the U.S. and internationally, increasing enrollment in our RN-BS and clinical research programs, searching for a graduate program coordinator, deliberating on faculty workload policies, planning a simulation faculty development workshop, increasing the number of student participants in University and Departmental Honors, creating learning activities related to inter-professional collaboration, integrating active applied learning activities in classroom and clinical settings, representing the SON at the Board of Trustees meeting, and welcoming Laurie Badzek as our new director in July.

The New SON Director Announced

CHHS Dean Charles Hardy announced Jan. 8 the acceptance of Laurie Badzek to become the next Director of the SON. She will begin her role on July 1. Badzek is a tenured, full Professor at the West Virginia University School of Nursing where she teaches nursing, ethics, law, and health policy. She has practiced in a variety of nursing and law positions and was appointed to the W. Va. State Guardianship Commission in ’89 and to the W. Va. Catastrophic Illness Commission in ’99. Badzek received her B.S.N. and her J.D. from West Virginia University Schools of Nursing and Law. More biographical information on Badzek will be forthcoming. We welcome Badzek to UNCW and to her leadership role within the School of Nursing.

Happy Spring 2015!
Notable Recognition

- **Tammy Arms** attended the Donald W. Reynolds Faculty Development to Advance Geriatric Education at Duke University, a mini-fellowship in Leadership and Scholarship in Geriatrics. *Arms* was the only nurse/nurse practitioner among medical participants.
- **Diane Pastor** will be inducted into the National Academies of Practice as a Nurse Scholar in mid-April in Alexandria, VA. She was nominated for the Academy by *Barbara Lutz*.
- Congratulations to *Beth Gazza* for being selected as the CHHS Faculty Spotlight for the month of February.

Notable Achievements

*Kellie English Bemelmans* (CLR May '11) is solo hiking the Arizona trail. She started on March 1 at the Mexican border with plans to hike north 800 miles over the course of 12 weeks. Kellie, an attorney and a Clinical Research Associate at PPD, is hiking to raise money/awareness for Homes for Our Troops and to fulfill a personal goal.

Photo at right is courtesy of Si Cantwell, *StarNews Online*.

Faculty Presentations:

*April Matthias* presented on Sept. 20 “U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps University of Cincinnati Accelerated BSN Program: The Quiet Patriotism of Becoming a Nurse, 1943-1946.” This research study, funded by a Corbett grant, was a peer-reviewed paper presentation at the American Association for the History of Nursing, 31st Annual American Association for the History of Nursing Conference: Nursing and Health Care History, Hartford, Conn.

*Diane Pastor* made several presentations relating to her trip to Vietnam during the Fall ’14 semester focusing on health care and nursing education and practice within the country. Presentations were made to the Nu Omega chapter of STTI in January, to various groups during Intercultural Week (iWeek) on the UNCW campus in February, and to New Hanover Regional Medical Center staff this month for Grand Rounds.

*Barbara Lutz*, *Anne-Marie Goff*, *Nancy Ahern* and student, *Paige Thacker* attended the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Tampa Feb. 25-28. All were able to present their respective studies. *Lutz* presented her research entitled: “Strategies for Improving Stroke Caregiver Readiness”; *Goff* presented her poster “Stressors, Learned Resourcefulness and Academic Performance;” and *Ahern*, along with her undergraduate research assistant *Thacker* (pictured at left) presented their poster “Awareness & Knowledge of Child and Adolescent Risky Behaviors: a Parent’s Perspective.”

*Barbara Lutz* made several presentations over the past several months:

- October, 2014: the American Academy of Nursing Annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC, where she and her colleagues presented a poster titled “Facilitating Successful Transitions Home Following A Visit to the Emergency Department.”
- October, 2014: the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Annual Education Conference in Anaheim, CA, where she participated in two invited panel presentations: 1) “Family-centered Care: Voices of Family Caregivers;” and 2) “The Essential Role of the Rehabilitation Nurse in Facilitating Care Transitions: What Role Do You Have?”
- November 2014: the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions Meeting in Chicago, IL where she participated in an invited symposium. Her paper was titled: “Issues and Dilemmas in Stroke Survivor Transitions: Transitional Care for Stroke Family Caregivers.”
- February 2015: the American Heart Association, International Stroke Conference (ISC) and State of the Science Stroke Nursing Symposium (SOSNS) in Nashville, TN. At ISC, *Lutz* presented an invited paper titled “Strategies for Patients and Caregivers Who Are Discharging to Home.” She also participated as an invited panelist to discuss recommendations from a scientific statement on evidence-based interventions for stroke family caregivers that was published in *Stroke* last summer.
Notable Achievements cont’d.

Faculty Publications. Congratulations to several faculty for their research publications. The citations are as follows:


Book Chapters:


Student Publications:

Two RN-BSN students Alan Welfare and Jennifer Joyner had letters to the editor published late last fall. The citations are listed below:


Curriculum News

The Class of May ’15 is the first cohort of students to complete the new five-semester curriculum, which added a semester of nursing courses and a separate capstone course and strengthened the transition to professional practice. Based on student and faculty discussion, the SON Curriculum Committee has begun discussing potential adjustments to courses and/or content to be implemented the 2016-2017 year.
The SLC joined the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and other businesses across the state for Students@Work Week held March 2 to 6. Throughout the week middle school students took part in job shadowing and mentoring programs to help them assimilate classroom learning with the realities of work environments. Students@Work is a joint initiative between the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. Business Committee for Education. This year, more than 100 businesses and 19,000 students participated.

The SLC participated in the program through an on-site mentoring visit. Seventeen middle school students toured all eight simulation labs and learned to listen to heart and lung sounds on computerized mannequins with a stethoscope after learning to assess their own pulses. This opportunity allowed students to gain an understanding of medical equipment and how technology and simulation are used to educate nursing students and other health professionals within the UNCW College of Health and Human Services.

Faculty and students have already utilized the SLC labs this semester in creative ways. The Geriatric Nursing Course, led by Tamatha Arms, carried out a simulated experience involving dementia. Students actually had their vision, hearing, mobility and dexterity altered to simulate the experiences of a demented patient. They wore headphones listening to “voices,” and wore cumbersome gloves. They had strong glasses on and walked with surgical shoe covers filled with beans to simulate arthritis, from which many older adults suffer. If that is not difficult enough to manage, they were assigned tasks to do at the same time in our Home Care Apartment such as cutting a pill, matching socks, folding towels, and looking up a phone number (see photo at right). Student evaluations of the experience demonstrated their appreciation for the realism of this simulation and how it increased the empathy they have for demented patients.

A faculty development workshop is planned for April 13th titled, “Interdisciplinary Simulation: Using Simulation in Teaching and Assessment.” Faculty within the CHHS and in other university departments across campus have been invited to attend and work together for an inter-professional collaboration in simulation.

On Feb. 21, several ADSN members (pictured at left) volunteered for the Special Olympics 5K and Polar Plunge at Kure Beach. The students guided the runners along the 5K course and provided enthusiastic support for the runners to complete the course. Students met a fellow nurse who dressed as an RN Superhero as part of a costume contest (see photo at left). The organization plans to volunteer at the Special Olympics Spring Games on April 22.
Community Nursing Students

Students in the prelicensure Community Health course participated in a Bolivia, NC Health Fair on Mar. 1. Collaborating with the Brunswick Community Health Department, students learned how to operate the LDX Cholestech machine (designed to assess cholesterol and blood glucose), performed blood pressure assessments and teaching on maintaining prostate health, good nutrition and the importance of regular exercise. Two interns from CHHS were also in attendance, as were various health agencies and fitness centers. The students and community participants were able to tour the Health Department’s mobile health unit, which travels to various areas of Brunswick County on a weekly basis.

New Interdisciplinary Course

Diane Pastor, in collaboration with radiation oncologist Patrick Maguire, has developed a new interdisciplinary course within CHHS, “Caring for the Cancer Patient” (CHHS 492). Twelve students from Clinical Research, Nursing and Exercise Science are enrolled in the course.

Spring 2015 Meet and Greet

The Spring ’15 “Meet and Greet” has been scheduled for the new student cohort entering in the Fall (Class of Dec ’17). The event will be held Apr. 20, from 11 to 1 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. There will be a table set up for each current cohort to discuss that level of the program and to welcome the new students. Class officers of other cohorts are encouraged to set up separate tables to assist students in this newest cohort with questions and guidance. In addition, there will be a table for each student organization; namely, the Association of Nursing Students and the American Assembly of Men in Nursing, to showcase their activities and to encourage membership.

ETEAL Event in the SON

The SON participated in the campus-wide ETEAL Exploration Day to showcase ETEAL projects and applied learning activities. The SON presentation, which consisted of two tables in McNeill Hall, was developed by Nancy Ahern. This was a university-wide event sponsored by ETEAL. ETEAL (Experiencing Tranformative Education through Applied Learning) is UNCW’s Quality Enhancement Plan to improve quality of learning for students and faculty.
2nd Annual CHHS Research Day: April 10, 2015
The College of Health and Human Services is pleased to announce the second Annual CHHS Research Day, “Making Your Mark—Implementing and Evaluating Community-based Violence Prevention Programs.” The keynote speaker is Moises Prospero, who will discuss the benefits of inter-professional research collaborations to implement community-based interventions related to violence prevention, how social-emotional learning can improve academic performance and reduce problematic behaviors; and expanding current literature into innovative research, policy, and applied practice projects.

Jeanne Kemppainen, the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professorship, will make a presentation on a theoretical basis for inter-professional research, models for inter-professional research projects, and challenges and opportunities for inter-professional research.

Faculty and students have been invited to submit an abstract describing their research/scholarship or evidence-based projects. The event will be held in the Burney Center.

Reflection Day 2015
Students in the undergraduate pediatric course will present their "reflective" projects on Spring '15 Reflection Day, April 28. The event will be held in McNeill 1051 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Students will present their papers presenting pathophysiology and relevant nursing diagnoses, as well as present individual projects incorporating the arts and humanities that are reflective of their experiences with various patient scenarios. Papers and projects also reflect on how the students' experiences frame future models in nursing practice. Students, staff and faculty are invited to drop in during the event time to view the projects and listen to the presentations.

News from the Office of Student Success
The Office of Student Success has had a busy semester with the addition of two new full-time staff members in the office. We hired Natalie Bernardina and Becky Hardy in January. We have also begun to interview candidates for four new positions in the office. These new advisors’ workload will consist of assisting RN-BS students through the orientation and initial advising phase, RN-BS process mapping, and possibly assisting with Assessment.

Collaborative Event on Cultural Activities within the CHHS
An inter-professional collaboration between the SON, the School of Social Work and the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences have planned a cultural activities on Apr. 17 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the McNeill Auditorium, entitled “Fighting Pediatric Cancer: The Necessity of an Inter-professional Approach to Advocacy, Quality Healthcare Service Provision and Funding Research.” There will be a guest speaker and a panel of individuals involved with the care of children with cancer.

SLC Assistant Exhibits Photography
Barbara Snyder, SLC Assistant, was invited to submit 12 photographic works of art to be included in the 4th Friday Gallery Walk, sponsored by the Arts Council of Wilmington, on Feb. 27. The peer-reviewed art exhibitions are displayed at various art galleries in downtown Wilmington. Snyder, pictured at right, stands before one of her works “Mannequins.” Snyder also served as the official photographer on the Cultural Immersion trip to Belize in early March. (See related story on the final page.)
The 2015 Belize Experience

On March 8 three faculty, one staff assistant and 22 students, consisting of 6 FNP students and 16 undergraduates, boarded a plane in Wilmington and headed to the Central American county of Belize. The final destination was on the outskirts of San Ignacio, a town located in the western part of the country and east of Guatemala. Over the course of the next seven days students and faculty conducted several health clinics and educational sessions within a variety of settings: elementary schools, private homes, a university, a village health clinic and an urban market. This cultural experience emphasized the importance of providing health care and sharing information vital to the management and/or prevention of acute and chronic health conditions among the Belizeans of mixed racial backgrounds (Creoles, Mestizos, Mayan and Garifuna).

Travel to and from the clinical sites involved the use of a compact bus that navigated winding paved and gravel roads. Midday heat was often oppressive and work conditions were rustic as compared to U.S. clinical sites, but the determination and hard work of the group prevailed. At each of the multiple clinical sites students and faculty demonstrated compassion and caring for hundreds of locals who visited the clinics and for a few who were visited within private homes. Key components of optimal nursing care were exhibited throughout the week’s activities: a willingness to serve others; flexibility with changing schedules and clinical sites; mutual respect and appreciation of colleagues; and providing fundamental nursing skills and compassion for the diverse population.

The hard work performed under difficult conditions was balanced by touring two hospitals and a long-term care facility and various sightseeing excursions. The group was able to visit Xuantunich (a popular Mayan ruins site), participate in an evening jungle hike to explore nocturnal sights and sounds of the jungle, shop at the San Ignacio Market and enjoy a tubing expedition down one of the local rivers.

According to undergraduate student Hyla Smith, “We shared experiences, knowledge, skills, and hope. We touched lives and in return our lives were touched, all because of a crazy adventure in Belize!”

Appreciation is extended to those on this trip who cared for more than 800 Belizeans in clinics and within private homes. Students were Anita Aviles, Maila Bezerra York, Miranda Clary, Erin Cline, Ashley Concepcion, Jessica Croninger, Jessica Disalle, Jamie Dorman, Amanda Foster, Sarah Fruendl, Nina Hadley, Patty Hanes, Melissa Howdeshell, Becca Lester, Ali Maher, Kelly McPherson, Hyla Smith, Tori Smith, Silva Stout, Nicole Turner, Megan Turner and Jenn White. Faculty and staff assistance was provided by Jane A. Fox, Susan Marshall, Sandra O'Donnell and Barbara Snyder.