The 2009-10 academic year has been full of successes for the School of Nursing. Some of the major accomplishments have included:

1. A major revision of the pre-licensure curriculum in which students will begin taking nursing courses in the second semester of their sophomore year. The courses pathophysiology and pharmacology will be combined and will be taught over two semesters, and additional hours were added to the geriatric course.

2. Approval of the Faculty Workload Policy.

3. A change in the grading system to include a plus/minus system.

4. A review of the admission process that is more transparent for students;

5. An increase in the minimum GPA to 2.7 for admission and progression in the pre-licensure program.

6. The approval of a new Master of Science degree in clinical research and product development.

7. One faculty member receiving tenure (Deborah Pollard) and four others receiving reappointment (Kay Livsey, Judith Jarosinski, Paula Reid and Kris Walters).

My first year as director has been both challenging and rewarding. The next major challenge is moving into the new School of Nursing Building which will occur over the summer.

We now have an enhanced website that showcases our new building. The direct link to this site is: www.uncw.edu/son/interactive. Open house is anticipated for August 19.

Greetings from a Very Special Graduate: Alicia Pearl

Special congratulations are extended to Alicia Pearl for receiving her B.S.N. in May. Alicia's husband Eden Pearl was injured in August '09 while serving in Afghanistan. He was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center’s Burn Unit (BAMC) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he remains a patient. Alicia and her daughter Avery joined him there last fall. It was in Texas that Alicia completed her pre-licensure requirements for graduation. A special thank you to assistant professor Cathi Cox who had the vision to make this happen, as well as other UNCW faculty, Nancy Murdock, Chris Orton and Kathy Ennen, for assisting Alicia with her coursework. Others who deserve special recognition are those who assisted with the clinical and capstone experiences: Capt. Mike Meissel, clinical preceptor, and Capt. Allison Brunson, capstone preceptor.
Approval of MS in Clinical Research and Product Development

The UNC Board of Governors in April approved the establishment of the M.S. degree in clinical research and product development. The degree has two concentrations from which students may choose: clinical research management and regulatory affairs. Information on this degree will be posted to the UNCW website. Special recognition for her efforts and contributions towards the approval of this degree goes to Kris Walters, clinical research program director and faculty.

Notable Recognition: Recipients of the Spring 2010 School of Nursing Awards

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

Pre-licensure: Ashley Fields ’10
RN/BS: Patricia Fowler ’10
Clinical Research: Julie Azua ’10

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:

Pre-licensure: Lisa Chambers ’10
William Mallory ’11

RN/BS: Betty Worthy ’10
Clinical Research: Laura Fields ’11
Taylor Fipps ’10

MSN-FNP: Debra Clifton ’10

Outstanding Alumni of the Year: Lolita Bryant and Thomas Curley

Outstanding Faculty of the Year: Nancy Murdock

Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award: Yeoun Soo Kim-Godwin

Notable Recognition of Faculty

The Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network (ESIN) selected Paula Reid for the ESIN Summer Fellowship Program in Applied Multi-Ethnic Research at the University of Michigan. This program, sponsored in conjunction with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and the Center for Statistical Consultation and Research (CSCAR), will provide Reid with the unique opportunity to further develop integrative research skills and gain valuable career advice from leading senior scholars. In addition, she will be awarded a stipend to cover some of the costs associated with participating in the summer fellowship program.

Honors Students Present Posters at the Fifth Annual Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship

Five nursing students presented posters at the fifth annual Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Workshop in April. Pictured at right are faculty Deborah Pollard, Catherine Starek (music department honors student), Ashley Fields, faculty Julie Smith Taylor, Hannah Spangler, Lisa Chambers, Hillary Hutto, Jessica Kot and Quinn Lawler.
Congratulations . . . . . to the Class of May 2010 Graduates!

M.S.N. Graduates

Nurse Educator

Blaise Sullivan Bolan
Debra Conner Clifton

Post Master’s Certificate

Juanita Dobynes Akinleye
Karen Milne MacLean
Kathryn Louise Thompson

B.S. Graduates

RN/BS

Mary O. Batson
Amanda Diane Clark
Patricia Lynn Fowler

Nykkessia LaShonne Jones
Stephanie Marie Mullins
MyLinda Louise O’Quinn
Marcus Tyler Patterson

Clinical Research

Julie Marie Azua
Jacki Melia Batson
Melissa Lynn Braxton
Charlotte Joy D’Annunzio
Taylor Jedrey Fipps
Tiffany Nicole Goodwin
Davetta L Guinn

Brittany Malia Hayes
Allisha Lamarr Ingram
Caitlin Eleanor Jones
Melissa Ann Kestel
Lindsay Sherée’ Logan
Corin Marie Madden
Richard Carmine Muni II

Amanda Leigh Shirley
Nichole Eun Jin Sterioti
Brettany Taylor Strickland
Amanda Marie Wehbie
Matthew Curran Wheeler
Christina Noel Whitney
Jován Kellene Wright

Pre-licensure

Emily Rae Aspland
Brandilynn Ashley Bilohlavek
Elizabeth Mayo Boddie
Abigail Anne Boehling
Stacey Ann Bradley
Holly Nicole Bridges
Patrick Gregory Bruff
Melissa Ashley Buckner
Lisa Marie Chambers
Amy Lauren Christley
Jenna Maegan Daigle
Erika Danielle Denaci
Megan Renee Dobbins
Lacey Nicole Edwards
Sarah Kathleen Eick
Fielding Turner Elliott
Ashley Danielle Fields
Ashlea Debra Foglio
Kaitlyn Sarah Garrison

Alexandra Marie Grainger
Lara Erin Griffis
Sarah Emily Hanerfeld
Lauren Nicole Harrison
Amanda Marie Hauser
Laura Elizabeth Hoffman
Hillary Frances Hutto
Kimberly Nicole Jobe
Christy Lynn Johnson
Emily Ann Johnson
Liza Nicole Kesler
Jessica Marie Kot
Quinn Harrington Lawlor
Megan Eileen Longo
Brynna Simone McMillan
Megan Jean McMurry
Alexa Kay McMurtrey
Alicia Carol Pearl
Ashlyn Meshele Pinion

Jessi Caitlyn Plumblee
Alison Paige Rapp
Jessica Dominique Reeves
Olivia Kirk Reeves
Robin Elyse Rhyne
Erin Kay Riley
Trudy Lee Rinker
Ashlee Rose Rocker
Amber Marie Rose
Madison Day Scalf
Holly Regina Schaefer
Jessica Lynn Scheer
Heather Lynn Smith
Hannah Rose Spangler
Kristen Nicole Spell
Jessica Lyn Stauffer
Kristina Joy Sullivan
Sharon Marie Tallman
Kathryn Brittany Vanderslice
2010 Sigma Theta Tau Research Day

Gail Mallory, Ph.D., R.N., NEA-BC (Nurse Executive, Advanced - Board Certified) was the keynote speaker for the 18th Annual Nu Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Research Day. On April 15, Mallory spoke on “Synthesizing Research for Clinical Practice” and for the keynote address on April 16, she presented “Implementing Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing Today.”

The following awards were given:

Best Nurse Researcher: Debra Pollard and Judy Jarosinski (pictured right), for their collaborative research efforts on “Correlates of Postpartum Depression in Diverse, Low-Income Women.”


Best Undergraduate Poster: Jessica Kot (pictured right) for her poster “How Women View HPV, Level of Knowledge of HPV and Gardasil Acceptance in Ages 13-18 in Southeastern North Carolina.” Her advisor: Julie Smith Taylor.

Congratulations to those who made podium presentations:

• Ann Quinlan-Colwell for her presentation “Chronic Low Back Pain and Anger: Influencing Effect of Rumination and Gender.”

• Carol Heinrich for her presentation “Efficacy of a Health Literary Intervention on Diabetic Health Outcomes.”

• Lorna Bell-Kotwall for her presentation “Exploring the Relationship between Professional Nurse Attributes and Certification”.

• Kae Livsey for her presentation “Community Assessment of Resources and Healthcare Experiences.”

Paul E. Hosier Undergraduate Fellowship Award

Mercedes Goetting, ’11 was awarded a Paul E. Hosier UNCW Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award for 2010-11. Her honors project is titled “Relationship between Knowledge, Attitudes and Self-Efficacy of Nurses in the Management of Pediatric Pain.” Her faculty advisor on this project is Deborah Pollard.

First Campuswide ANS Health Fair a Huge Success

On April 9, the Association of Nursing Students (ANS) hosted the first university-wide health fair to educate students, faculty and staff about resources available to them for the promotion of health and wellness. Twenty-two businesses and organizations, from the Pender County Health Department to Babs McDance Social Dance Studio, participated in this event by attendees with useful information. In addition, the Red Cross held a blood drive and collected 67 units of blood exceeding its goal of 50. A raffle was also held to raise money for the “adopted” ANS child diagnosed with leukemia. The ANS thanks all participants who made presentations supported this successful event. Other events in which ANS participated are listed on the final page.
New Building Update: We’re on Schedule to Host Fall 2010 Classes

The progress of the new nursing building remains on schedule to host fall 2010 classes. This means that the summer months will be busy ones with moving activities from Friday Annex. The grand opening ceremony/open house is tentatively scheduled for mid-August.

Simulation Lab Ends School Year with Vibrant Activities

The Simulation Lab ends the school year as a center for student learning and assessment activities. Junior-level students enrolled in health assessment spent many “open” lab hours practicing for their final competency check-offs on April 23. On the previous day, these same students participated in simulation scenarios facilitated by clinical instructors for their adult health I clinical competency evaluation. Students enrolled in maternal-infant participated during the prior week in evaluative simulations focused on the nursing needs of a mother in labor and the assessment of the newborn. Senior-level students in adult health II participated in evaluative simulations for acutely ill patients over a two-day period during that same week.

With the anticipated move to the new building approaching, the summer months will be a busy time for instructors and staff to take inventory, pack equipment and finalize plans for the new Simulation Learning Center. Don’t be surprised if a caravan of stretchers and wheelchairs appear in July along the walkways of UNCW. “Sim Man,” “Noelle” and “Nursing Anne” and “Kelly” will be making their relocation to a new state-of-the-art residence within the new facility.

Leah Pursel (Dec. ’10) Recognized for Leadership and Community Service

On April 21, Leah Pursel, president of the UNCW Chapter of the Association of Nursing Students, was recognized for her leadership and community service by the Center for Leadership, Education and Service. Leah received the following Cornerstone leadership honors: the Distinguished Service Award, the Laureate Awards in recognition of excellent in the promotion of social justice, human rights and the creation of positive change in the world, the personal leadership certificate, the organizational leadership certificate and the civic and community engagement leadership certificate. On May 7 Leah was recognized as the recipient of the Rachel Freeman Service Award, which is presented to the member of the senior class who best embodies the ideals of service to others, commitment to social justice and collaborative leadership.

Pictured left is Leah at the 2010 Relay for Life event held on April 23 at Ashley High School.
Notable Research, Workshops, Presentations and Publications


On April 14-16, Deborah Pollard and Anne Zabriskie attended the Quality and Safety Education in Nursing Faculty Development Institute in Washington, D.C.

Carol Heinrich and Deborah Pollard presented a workshop on “preparing for the Nurse Educator Certification Exam” in Myrtle Beach on April 23.

Kae Livsey will present findings from the Community Assessment of Resources and Health Care Experiences (CARE), Alto Cayma, Peru, at two conferences this summer. An overview of the experience, which provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to conduct international research, will be presented at the 11th annual National/International Evidence-Based Practice Conference sponsored by Arizona State University School of Nursing in June. In addition, findings from the study will be presented at the Sigma Theta Tau International’s 21st International Nursing Research Congress in Orlando, Fla. in July. Livsey will co-present findings from her study titled “Student Perceptions of Faculty Teaching and Program Satisfaction” at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in Myrtle Beach in June. Financial support for the study was provided by the J. Richard Corbett Charitable Trust.

Faculty from the School of Nursing are working to help prevent obesity in the community, thanks to a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Livsey, along with Desmond Goss, graduate research assistant, have been working with members of the Cape Fear Health Policy Council, UNCW Obesity Prevention Initiative and Lose Tons Wilmington to recruit individuals to participate in a 10-week walking program. Kathleen Ennen is also recruiting participants for an intervention study which will look at the impact of a walking program on blood pressure and fatigue.

Carla Savinon and the Family Nurse Practitioner graduate class of December 2010 attended the Nurse Practitioner Spring Symposium (NPSS) at the Grove Park Inn. NPSS is sponsored by the N.C. Nurses Association. This weekend conference provides the students with opportunities to meet practicing nurse practitioners (NPs) from across the state. They attended a variety of sessions ranging in topics from N.C. legislative issues related to NP practice to post stroke management. The students gained a wealth of clinical knowledge and networked with other NPs for employment opportunities.

Retired School of Nursing Dean Virginia Adams was accepted to participate as a mentor in the Nurse Faculty Mentored Leadership Development (NFMLD) Program created by Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) with generous support from a grant from the Elsevier Foundation. The grant will support activities in the name of the NFMLD program which included a workshop on April 19-22 with the theme “The Leadership Challenge: Defining your passion and pathway.” In addition, expenses for the STTI biennial convention Oct. 29 - Nov. 2 will be supported. An 18-month mentored leadership experience serves as the foundation for the NFMLD curriculum. Each scholar (new nurse faculty member) has selected an expert mentor. Adams and her scholar from the University of Connecticut will participate in an intensive three-day leadership workshop in which the mentor serves as a guide throughout the scholar’s leadership development journey. The blended curriculum of the program includes a variety of educational strategies for developing leadership knowledge and competence. A leadership development plan will be designed and implemented and a sustainable educational leadership project will be presented during the biennial convention.

Four additional RN-BS students had their letters to the editor accepted for publication in nursing journals, in addition to the six students announced in the December newsletter. They are: Melissa Inman: “Transitional Care” in the *American Journal of Nursing*; Joanne Hannah: “Initiative on the Future of Nursing” in the *American Journal of Nursing*; Karol Shugart: “Experience with Distance Education” in the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*; and LaKashe Wright “Listening to Your Patients’ Stories” in *Nursing 2010*. 
International Travel

El Salvador

School of Nursing professor Jane Fox, graduate students Rand Pennington and Sheila Lane, and undergraduate students Jessi Plumbee, Audry Bafford, Hillary Hutto, Christy Johnson, Eric Morgan and Alexandra Grainger travelled March 3-13 to El Salvador to assist in a local pediatric clinic and visit both private and public hospitals within the San Salvador community. The clinic experience allowed students to participate in three clinical sections: triage, assessments of eyes and ears and distribution of vitamin supplements, medications and clothing. Interpreters assisted the participants and patients throughout the experience. Participants were able to explore the city, its parks, markets and restaurants before departure home.

Peru

Students from the School of Nursing will once again be embarking on a clinical and cultural immersion experience to Peru this year. The group will travel May 15-June 6 to Arequipa to work with SON partners at the Maria Madre de los Missiones Clinic and community. Students traveling this year include: Amanda Formy-Duval, Janie Dowda, Amanda Hauser, Melissa Howard, Thomas Mangiacapre, Robin Rhyne, Holly Snow and Sean Toomey. They will assist with data collection for a research study pilot on women’s health literacy and connection to government support. Pictured at right are Roberta Allred and Danielle Cray during the 2009 Peru experience.

Senior Nursing Students Assist with Camp Special Times

On April 18, a group of senior nursing students, as a part of their pediatric class, spent the day assisting with Camp Special Times, a weekend event for special needs children of military families at Camp Lejeune. Face painting, sculpture of balloon figures by Scooter the Clown, sticker art projects, outdoor exercising and a number of other delightful activities filled the day. For UNCW students this event provides opportunities to meet a special needs child and frequently allows memorable bonds to develop between students and campers. Students from other disciplines, counselors, community volunteers and NHRMC pediatric staff nurses care for and interact with the children. For the parents, Camp Special Time provides respite from the daily demands of caring for special needs children. Pictured at left is Lauren Brown ’10 and pictured above are Thomas Mangiacapre ’10 and Mallory Rodgers ’10.

American Assembly for Men in Nursing

The UNCW Chapter of AAMN was featured this month in the AAMN quarterly newsletter Interaction with an article titled “Chapter Formation, Lessons Learned,” co-authored by Debbie Ezzell and Jonathan Hughes ’09. The UNCW chapter will be formally recognized in September during the 35th annual meeting of AAMN, which is hosted by Duke University School of Nursing. A copy of the full article will be posted on the AAMN information board located opposite the LRC Conference Room in Friday Annex. For additional information on this chapter, click on the Current Students link on the SON webpage and look for the AAMN link under Student Organizations. For information on the national organization go to www.aamn.org.
A Name Change . . . And Your Chance to Select It!

To begin with what may be obvious: the School of Nursing is moving from Friday Annex to a new building within the next few months. Accordingly, those of us on the editorial/production staff hope to reflect this milestone by renaming the newsletter and discarding our old title, “First Friday.”

Since we don’t wish to rely on our own creativity to produce a new title, we ask for your assistance. Before the next edition, which is expected to be published at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, please submit to Sandra O’Donnell or to Debra Simpson your suggestion(s) for a new title. The Newsletter Committee (yes, there is one!) will review the submissions and make a final selection.

By the way, there’s a reward for whoever submits the title that is chosen: a $100 gift certificate from First Uniform Company in Wilmington. All readers are eligible: faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the School of Nursing. We kindly ask that your suggestions be submitted via e-mail (odonnells@uncw.edu or simpsond@uncw.edu) no later than Aug. 1.

In the meantime, we hope you will continue to welcome each edition of the newsletter. We want to continue to bring you articles on the remarkable accomplishments, recognition and activities of our colleagues and those of us who continue to learn from the UNCW School of Nursing.

Graduation of the 2006 Cohort of Camp BONES Academy

On April 17, eight members of the first cohort of Camp BONES Academy (2006) graduated after completing four years in the program. A graduation/reception was held in Madeline Suite in their honor and was attended by approximately 60 faculty, family and friends. The graduates include Tiara Fennell, Khadijah Glover, Kirby James, Renee Newkirk, Roberto Ramirez, Patricia Salazar, Diana Uresti and Cassandra Ward. One other member of the 2006 cohort, Carneisha Ward, graduated from high school early and is attending Winston-Salem State University. Seven of the graduates are pictured at left. Janie Canty-Mitchell, Camp BONES project director, and Cyndi Meredith, project coordinator (pictured at right) were present to award the graduation certificates.

ANS Nominated as Club of Year Cornerstone Award

The Association of Nursing Students (ANS) has completed a very active year and was nominated for a Cornerstone Award as Club of the Year by the Center for Leadership, Education and Service. This year’s activities included participation in the Walk for Those Who Can’t fundraiser by raising $500 for Carolina Canines, the Walk to Defeat ALS event, the March of Dimes walk, the spring 2010 health fair (see related story), the Soap Drive for Chile and Haiti in which hundreds of bars of soap were collected and the 2010 Relay for Life in which $500 was raised for breast cancer research.

The officers for fall 2010 are Leah Pursel, president; Emma McManus, vice president; Rebecca Neer, secretary; Heleana Mangeri, treasurer; and Stephanie Mayers and Ashley Whittington, historians. Congratulations on a remarkable year of service to others.

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 fun and relaxing summer!