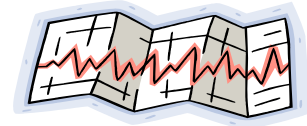
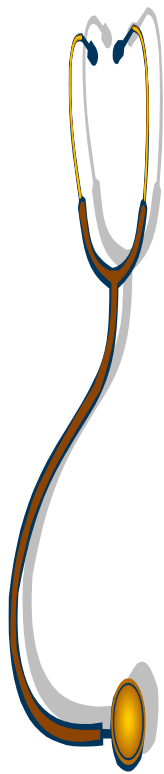


THE STANTON PULSE



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The Associate Degree Nursing Program Seeks NLNAC Reaccreditation

By Lola Johnson

During the past two years the faculty of The Associate Degree Nursing Program (ADNP) at Stanton engaged in a critical self-evaluation to examine the extent to which the program meets national accreditation standards of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) for nursing education programs. Accreditation is a voluntary self-study process by which faculty researches and validates evidence of meeting or exceeding standards and criteria for quality in nursing education as defined by the NLNAC. Faculty of the ADNP prepared a 200-page self-study document that reported data demonstrating compliance with all NLNAC Accreditation Standards.

In February, three NLNAC site visitors from Florida, Georgia, and Virginia visited Stanton Campus for three days. During their visit, the site visitors gathered information from College adminis-

trators, nursing faculty, faculty from related courses, staff, and students. They also visited Christiana Hospital and the Mary Campbell Center and talked with nursing staff and students at these clinical sites. The purpose of the many interviews and visits was to validate data written in the self-study document. Following discussions with nursing students and observations of classes, hospital and community sites, the NLNAC site visitors reported that the students were knowledgeable about the curriculum and were provided with opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge and perform nursing skills. The site visitors noted that faculty and staff at the teaching/learning environments were supportive of students. The retention and community partnering programs were other strengths of the ADNP mentioned by the site visitors. At the conclusion of their three-day visit, the NLNAC site visitors, in their report to

the commission, recommended continuing accreditation for eight years for the ADNP.

The next two steps in the accreditation process include a review of the site visitors' report by a peer Evaluation Review Panel, followed by an evaluation of the self-study document and the site visitors' report by the NLNAC Board of Commissioners. The ADNP will be notified of the NLNAC Board of Commissioners' decision in August 2009. With continued accreditation since 1977, the faculty of the ADNP demonstrates their commitment to excellence in nursing education through this rigorous self-study process.



CAMPUS / DEPARTMENT NEWS



Strategies Aimed at Student Success by Donna Ramage

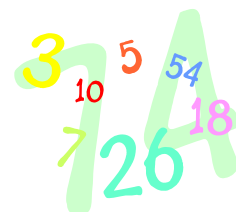
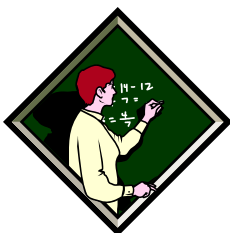
In an attempt to help first level fundamental students transition smoothly into the clinical nursing courses, a forum was held on January 23, 2009. The program was titled "Getting off to a Good Start: An Elective Organizational Workshop for the Fundamentals Student." The forum was sponsored by the Retention Coordinator, the first level nursing faculty and the Student Issues Committee. The form was led by Andrea Kiszenia, Student Nurse Intern. Upper level students were available to assist the first level students with tips on how to handle the challenges of balancing classes, clinical labs, readings and seminars. Students shared how they have managed juggling unique challenges such as working full time, single motherhood, and family and work responsibilities while progressing through their clinical nursing courses. It was a time for student-to-student dialogue without faculty presence. Feedback from those who attended was positive. There are plans for this event to be repeated for the 2010 semesters.



The Birth of Nursing Math Labs by Elizabeth Chance

The implementation of the Nursing Math Lab resulted from the efforts of our Retention Coordinator, Dawn Geldof, who envisioned the need to provide assistance to those students seeking extra help with math calculations. According to Dawn, medication errors account for a staggering number of deaths in the United States, and many of those errors involve incorrect math calculations. Nursing students need to develop a high level of math competence and confidence, and our nursing program is dedicated to providing the means to accomplish this goal. The development of the Nursing Math Labs became the answer to the question of how to provide math instruction in the most efficient and effective manner to the greatest number of students possible. The math labs are designed to be interactive workshops that allow students to examine math problems in a small group setting. These labs are offered once or twice a week starting around clinical week seven. Student attendance may be required by course instructors if a student is struggling with math questions on the nursing exams or if a student just needs to build math confidence. Students may also attend on a voluntary basis. The Nursing Math Labs have evolved over the past couple of semesters to include the use of Personal Response Devices, also known as clickers, which help to encourage student engagement and active participation in the learning process.

The efforts and perseverance of Dawn in developing and implementing the Nursing Math Labs have not gone unnoticed. Those students who have attended Dawn's math labs sessions have recognized her dedication and devotion to their success. Let's give Dawn a hand of applause for her commitment to the retention and success of the students in our nursing program!



CAMPUS / DEPARTMENT NEWS



Welcome New Counselor by Jennifer Graber



Jeff Rose is new to the Delaware Tech Stanton campus. He is a counselor who assists F-1 international students as well as

veteran students. The term F-1 refers to international students who attend an academic program in the United States. He is currently assisting F-1 students through the admissions process, updating student status with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services each semester, answering questions regarding F-1 status and F-1 regulations, assisting with F-1

transfers to and from other colleges, and counseling F-1 students. Jeff also helps veterans who are attending academic programs. He assists veterans through the admissions process and with their educational benefits, updates veteran students status with VA each semester, answers questions regarding their benefits, school scholarships, and special school pro-

grams, and also counsels veteran students. Jeff is located in room D110 if assistance is needed. He can also be reached at jrose8@dtcc.edu or (302)454-3926.



EDUCATION CORNER



Articulation Agreements: Options for Continuing Education by Pat Welsh

Did you know that Delaware Tech offers Connected Degree Curricula with Delaware State University, the University of Delaware, and Wilmington University? The articulation agreements with these three universities allow students to continue their education beyond the associate degree level. Nursing students who need to be full-time (12 credits) or who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in the future may consider taking courses that meet the BSN requirements for connected degree programs. Completion of those courses makes for a smoother transition to another institution to obtain an advanced degree.

Wilmington University will accept all required coursework from the ADN at Stanton, plus the CHM 110 General Chemistry. This is a total of 76 credits.

University of Delaware accepts transfer credit for several courses: three biology courses (BIO 115, 150, and 151), chemistry (CHM 110), two math courses (MAT 153 and MAT 255), and one nursing course (NUR 267 Nursing Education as a Career). In addition, University of Delaware accepts 15 credits of free electives taken at Delaware Tech.

Delaware State University accepts a variety of courses from DTCC students who wish to transfer. They include: CHEM 100-Basic Chemistry, ENG 124-Oral Communications, HIS 111-U.S. History: Pre-Civil War or HIS 112- U. S. History: Post-Civil War, MAT 120- Math for Behavioral Sciences, MAT 255- Business Statistic I, NUR 111- Cultural Competency & Health, SPA 133-Using Beginning Spanish, SPA 136- Spanish Communication I, and SPA 137-Spanish Communication II.

More information about articulation agreements and connected degrees may be found on the DTCC website at www.dtcc.edu/connecteddegree/. Of course it is always recommended that students discuss course selection and plans for articulation with respective university advisors for the RN-BSN programs being considered. Students can also go to any of the above University websites for contact information.

EDUCATION CORNER (continued from page 4)



National Nurses Week by Mary Lou Hamilton

National Nurses Week was celebrated from May 6-12 to pay tribute to nurses across the country. The American Nurses Association (ANA) theme for 2009 was **Nurses: Building a Healthy America**. The ANA recognizes that nursing students are the *nurses of tomorrow*. The following are excerpts from the 2009 message from ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

Nursing is often described as both an art and a science; this year's theme reflects the commitment nurses make every day for their patients and the compassion and quality of care they provide for their community.

Today's nurses must have the strength to care for patients during times of disaster and crisis; the commitment to remain involved in continuing education throughout their careers; and the compassion to provide hands-on patient care at the bedside – as they have done throughout the centuries. Moreover, at 2.9 million strong, nurses represent the largest group of health care workers in America, and we have the power to achieve much-needed reform in nursing and in health care. That is why it is important ...to thank nurses for what they do and to remind the public just how vital our nation's nurses are to patients, their families and society.

Of course, giving thanks, recognition and acknowledgement is only part of the reason we celebrate National Nurses Week every year. Another equally important reason is to remind the public of nursing's contributions to the health and well-being of the nation. ...I hope you will also take a few moments to reflect on some of the challenges that also face nursing today, and the advocacy efforts of ANA in these areas:

- *Establishing staffing levels that promote a safe and healthy working environment for nurses and to ensure the highest possible patient care. To support safe staffing, ANA has launched a national campaign to help fight for safe staffing legislation. To find out more about what you can do to advance safe staffing, please visit www.safestaffingsaveslives.org. This Web site serves as a one-stop source of helpful information with user-friendly tools. On the site, you will be able to find ANA's "Principles on Safe Staffing", background research on safe staffing, federal and state legislation and ANA's legislative and legal action.*
- *ANA favors a restructured health care system that does the following: Enhances consumer access to services by delivering primary health care in community-based settings; Fosters consumer responsibility for personal health, self care, and informed decision making in selecting health care services; Facilitates utilization of the most cost-effective providers and therapeutic options in the most appropriate settings.*
- *The American Nurses Association (ANA) announced its endorsement of President Barack Obama and looks forward to working with the new administration and new lawmakers to affect positive **change** for nurses and the patients we serve. President Obama believes, as ANA does that health care is a basic human right, not a privilege. ANA is ready to work with the new administration to provide safe, affordable quality health care for all.*
- *Increasing interest and support for addressing educational preparation for the RN workforce. Evidence shows that higher levels of nursing education are linked with lower patient mortality rates, fewer errors and greater job satisfaction among RNs.*

...I hope you take time to reflect on how rewarding a nursing career can be, and to share your passion for nursing with others. This...is an opportunity to take stock, and take pride in what you accomplish as nurses, and hopefully to inspire others to choose this challenging and fulfilling profession.

National Nurses Week



FACULTY NEWS



Welcome New Faculty by Jennifer Graber



After a friend advised her that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step", **Joanne Shur-Coyle** began her nursing career at DTCC graduating with an ADN in 1983. She went on to complete a BSN from Gwynedd-Mercy College in 1990. With a passion for learning and wanting to study health policy and management, Joanne pursued an MPH from Johns Hopkins

University School of Public Health and Hygiene (*now* JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health), graduating in 1994. In May 2008, she completed the requirements for a MSN in Nursing Education at Villanova University and was awarded the College of Nursing's *Medallion for Distinguished Academic Excellence*.

Prior to joining the faculty, she worked at CCHS Visiting Nurse Association for many years. Her most recent position at the VNA involved the development and implementation of a home health nurse internship program which has been very successful over the last four years. Joanne has extensive experience in gerontology

and community health nursing, including development and implementation of disease management protocols at the University of Pennsylvania Health System's primary care practices. She holds certifications in diabetes education (CDE) and in gerontology (BC).

Joanne is single and dotes over her two chocolate labs, Mace and Lily, and her two cats, Simon and Sophie, and *for the most part, they all get along very well*. She loves taking pictures and has traveled to various U.S. locations, Israel, Turkey, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, England, Mexico, Canada, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. She hopes to experience the *Aurora Borealis* one day in the near future.

Joanne co-teaches NUR 244 in both the community health and gerontology components. Her office is located in C201 and she can be reached at 302-453-3061, or via email at jcoyle5@dtcc.edu. Joanne is very excited about joining the nursing faculty and is appreciative of the open and warm welcome she has received from the faculty and staff.



Farewell, Lola by Kathy Sokola

Lola Johnson, NUR 242, decided to retire this year after 33 years of dedicated service to the nursing program at Stanton. Her quiet, soft-spoken and patient qualities often belied the powerful force that Lola was within the nursing department. Over the years she helped guide the department through numerous curricular changes and NLNAC visits. She was an extraordinary resource person for anything involving theory, curriculum, and nursing education in general. This was in addition to her expertise in mental health nursing which was evident in her teaching and benefited students and faculty beyond the classroom. Lola was the initial writer of the grant to fund the SIP-N program and helped develop a process for faculty to identify and mentor at-risk students. Lola also served the College on the SLOA committee. Her diligence and attention to detail made her an asset in whatever capacity she served.

Lola has been a contributing writer for *The Stanton Pulse* since its inception. As with this edition, her articles often were the lead articles for the newsletter. Her clear and concise writing style and her reliability will be greatly missed by all who work on the newsletter each semester.

Lola maintains her credentials as a Clinical Nurse Specialist and continues to work as a Group Therapy Nurse at Delaware Psychiatric Center. In her retirement, she plans to travel, enjoy her grandchildren, and scrapbook.

Lola, you have been like a wise sage on this faculty and you have touched us all. We will miss you tremendously, but we wish you all the best in your retirement. You have certainly earned it!



FACULTY NEWS (continued from page 6)



Faculty News by Kathy Sokola

Elizabeth Chance (NUR 144) received her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from Delaware State University on May 17, 2009. Her dissertation was entitled "Early Prenatal Care Education: Birth and Parental Outcomes." We congratulate Elizabeth on a job well done!

Lynda Kopishke (NUR 241/242) was a contributor and consultant for the textbook *Legal and Professional Issues* published by Lippincott in 2009. She was also a speaker at the AALNC 2009 National Education Conference in April.

Diane Toto (NUR 143/144), **Bonnie Blackman** (NUR 142/143), **Chris Hoch** (NUR 243/244), and **Anya Peters** (NUR 241) had their article entitled "Bridging the Gap: Answering the Need for Nursing Faculty" accepted for publication in *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*. The article will appear in the October 2009 issue.

Priscilla Parker and **Diane Bradley** received the 2009 Health Information Technology Scholarship from the NLN. They were selected from faculty representing over 300 schools throughout the country that sought this prestigious grant. Priscilla and Diane have done an outstanding job in seeking means to enhance our nursing program.

Kathy Sokola had an article entitled "Facing the Challenge of Retention" published in the May issue of the *DNA Reporter*.

Lynda Kopishke, Anya Peters, Karen Rollo, and Kathy Sokola (NUR 241) submitted a poster presentation entitled "Integrating Discussion Board into an ADN Course Assignment" at the Third Annual Nurse Educator Conference on June 9, 2009.

Sigma Theta Tau Community Outreach by Jennifer Graber

Many faculty members support the Beta Xi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Every year Beta Xi participates in an Annual Holiday Outreach benefiting Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services. As part of a full spectrum of mental health services, Upper Bay provides custodial care for 40 of the most severely and persistently mentally ill adults through their residential program. Clients in this program have only a small stipend each month (about \$30.00) to purchase all of their clothes, hygiene products, and other personal items. For this reason, each year the clients in this program are sponsored and receive a hygiene gift bag, a \$15 to \$20 gift card, and an item from their wish list. On December 16, 2008, the members from the Beta Xi Chapter went to Upper Bay's day program to meet the clients and host a holiday party. The clients had cookies, cake, veggies, cheese/crackers/pepperoni, pretzels, chips, and fun! Thanks to everyone who made donations to make the holiday a memorable one for the clients at Upper Bay.



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Andrea Kiszenia serves as Nurse Educator Intern by Chris Hoch

Andrea Kiszenia had the honor of serving as nurse educator intern for the 2009 spring semester. Her responsibilities included peer tutoring of third semester students, attendance at one committee or faculty meeting and the creation of an educational tool for third semester students. During her first peer tutoring sessions, Andrea began with a review of material by PowerPoint presentation and later included written outlines of lecture content. She completed each session with a sample of questions from an NCLEX review book pertinent to the content being discussed. Andrea admitted the experience gave her a greater appreciation for the time it takes nurse educators to prepare and present information to nursing students.

Andrea was also charged with the creation of an educational tool to aid third semester students. She developed 3x5 cards that provided a step by step guide on the use of syringe pumps. These cards were laminated and distributed to third semester students. Andrea created the cards so they could be kept with required medication cards and used as a reference while in the clinical setting. In addition, Andrea hoped the cards would be used by these students in fourth semester as a resource if needed.

Andrea acknowledged that she enjoyed being in the internship role. She plans to continue her education and potentially work in an educator role. Ideally, she would like to be an educator in the acute care or academic setting. Andrea has made preparations to begin her nursing career in Florida where she was offered and has accepted an RN position in the Emergency Department at Wuesthoff Health System.

On a personal note, Andrea shared that her father suffers from primary biliary cirrhosis. He has been on a liver transplant list for approximately two years. Andrea's husband was recently found to be a match as a living donor for her father. Arrangements are currently being completed for the transplant to occur late in May. Our thoughts are with Andrea and her family for a successful transplant and speedy recoveries of both her husband and her father. We also wish Andrea the best as she begins her nursing career.

Nurses Ball by Jan Smick

On February 21, 2009 Delaware nurses and student nurses celebrated their chosen profession by coming together for the 7th Annual Nurses Ball. Held every year at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, the Nurses Ball provides a celebratory environment to honor and recognize the outstanding performance of nursing students, faculty, and schools of nursing. The event was attended by faculty members Jennifer Graber, Fran Muldoon, Priscilla Parker, Donna Ramage, Jan Smick, Diane Toto, and Cynthia Watson. Student attendants included Amanda Fertig, Robin Forester, Tara Johnston, Dan O'Connell, Tara Miles, Kristie Reeve, and Nicole Schmidt. Priscilla Parker was nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award and Tara Johnston was nominated for the Student of the Year Award. Delaware Tech Stanton Campus walked away with the School Spirit Award, recognizing the campus as student friendly, productive, and community focused. A wonderful evening was had by all who attended with good food and good friends who danced the night away.



Priscilla Parker



Tara Miles

Alumni News



Class Notes by Linda Martz



Tiffany Hill graduated May 2007 and is employed at Christiana Hospital Express Admissions Unit. Tiffany is currently attending Immaculata University to obtain her BSN.

Laura Hearn, who graduated in December 2007, is employed at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital in York as a charge nurse/relief supervisor. She is married to Dave Farrell.

Jim Covington, graduated in May 2007 and is working in the Urology Clinic at the Veteran's Hospital in Wilmington.

Andre Wilkins, a December 2007 graduate, started to work for Fresenius Dialysis in late August / early September, 2008, after he left Christiana Care. This facility is the largest supplier of dialysis materials in the world. Andre was promoted to charge nurse by early January, 2009 (which was a full 2 months shy of the usual time for charge nurse, which is 6 months) and has been charge nurse ever since. He states that he is fully enjoying his job. Andre's son, Nicolai Jerome Wilkins, was born on May 2, 2008, and is now a year old. He's walking and running and he can say "mama" and (occasionally) "dada" and "no" .. Andre recently celebrated his 30th birthday.



Kimberly Woodward graduated in December 2008. After passing the NCLEX exam, she was hired as an RN at her place of employment where she had worked as a clerk/aide. Kim has worked as a nurse at the Nemours (Al duPont Hospital for children) Cardiac Center since March 9th. She says that "it is so wonderful to be the nurse and help the sick cardiac children and their families." Kim wants everyone who's still plugging away in the nursing program to know that after working full time, taking care of three children and her father in law, and welcoming her grandson, it is so rewarding to have become an RN and it can be done. In her spare time, she still searches out things to learn about pediatric heart defects, goes to conferences, takes PALS- pediatric Advance Life Support, and looks up drugs just for fun. She completed certification as a Birthing Doula in March, after attending her third birth. Kim's grandson is 15 months old now and her daughter is doing great at Delaware Tech. Her sons are getting ready to start high school at DMA and middle school at Conrad. Kim wants to wish "good luck" to all of the hard working nursing students and to all of her fellow graduates on their job search and new employment. She also wants to give special thanks to the instructors and staff for giving her the support and tools to start a new life.



April Rawheiser graduated in December 2008 and works on the Admission Unit of Delaware Psychiatric Center as a RN. She enjoys seeing Delaware Tech students during their clinical rotations at DPC. April is currently looking into RN to BSN programs.

Cyndi Morgan graduated in December of 2008 and was chosen for the Perioperative Internship for the Main OR at Christiana Hospital.

Jennifer Skidmore, who graduated in December of 2008, was also chosen for the Perioperative Internship for the Main OR at Christiana Hospital.



Contact Linda Martz at lmartz@dtcc.edu to have your Alumni information published in the newsletter.



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- Mary Lou Hamilton**
- Lola Johnson**
- Donna Ramage**
- Jan Smick**
- Pat Welsh**

Do you have something interesting that you'd like to submit for the next newsletter? Contact Kathy Sokola at ksokola@dtcc.edu for details.

SNA NEWS by Kathy Sokola

Congratulations to the elected SNA officers for spring 09-2 semester:

- President – Larry Lazopoulos
- Vice President – Tara Miles
- Secretary – Dan O’Connell
- Treasurer – Tara Johnston
- SGA Rep – Robin Forrester

The SNA had a very productive semester under the guidance of these individuals. The SNA organized bake sales, a job fair, a cell phone collection for victims of domestic violence, and a coat drive for the homeless. The SNA sponsored an open house event for students and their family members, and continued their involvement with planning and implementing the graduate luncheon and pinning ceremony festivities.

Guest speakers attended several of the SNA meetings, including Anne Dunphy who spoke about the NLNAC accreditation visit and Lynda Kopishke who presented information on medical malpractice. A representative from the Medication Takeback program also spoke with the students.

The SNA demonstrated leadership after the tragic passing of faculty member Fran Muldoon. A special SNA meeting was used to develop ideas to honor Fran. A second bake sale was held to raise initial funds for a scholarship in Fran’s honor. Members also collected donations from faculty and students.

At the annual Nurses Ball in February, the Stanton SNA received the School Spirit Award. This award honored the SNA for its enthusiastic support of nursing, participation in SNA activities, and support of Delaware Tech. A distinctive wall plaque was hung in the nursing hallway located on the second floor of the C-wing at Stanton. It serves as a reminder of all the ways in which the Stanton organization makes a difference in so many lives.

Just for Fun

Nurstoons

by Carl Elbing



www.nurstoons.com

We're on the Web! Check us out on the Stanton-Wilmington home page (www.dtcc.edu/stanton-wilmington) and from the Nursing Department home page (www.dtcc.edu/stanton/nursing).