

Creating Our Future



**Helen Hurst,
DNP, RNC,
APRN-CNM**

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Dr. Mary Neiheisel
and Robbie Stefanski
as 2012 Acadiana
Celebrates Nursing
Honorees**
- **Dr. Denise Linton,
Baton Rouge
District Nurse's
Association
Celebrates Nursing
Honoree**

**Susan Shelton,
Anna Batiste and
Jessica Landry
(From Left)**

**Not Pictured:
Alisha Cannon and
Carole Guidry**

Message from the RN to BSN and DNP Coordinators Dr. June Borazjani and Dr. Helen Hurst

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's RN to BSN Program is designed for, and targeted to, registered nurses (RNs) with associate degree nursing education. The program serves time-constrained RNs who are motivated and capable of independent learning while balancing non-educational obligations. The program is structured to meet their unique and specific needs in terms of earning a baccalaureate nursing degree. Because the program appeals primarily to nurses who are working full-time, the online version of the program will make this upgrade of education and credentials available to far more working adults who hold the two-year ADN (approximately 32,000 in Louisiana). Courses for the online RN-to-BSN program

are offered in 7-week sessions with one week in between sessions. Students will have 6 opportunities to start the program annually (5 starts in 2012). The RN-to-BSN program courses consists of 30 credit hours (25% of the total 120 required for the degree) of nursing courses that are required and must be completed at UL Lafayette.

Beginning in the fall of 2012 the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions will offer the Post Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (pending SACS-COC approval). In 2003 the IOM called for increased educational preparation of healthcare professionals and AACN recommends that the DNP be the required preparation for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. A practice focused degree, the DNP program at UL Lafayette is targeted specifically to nurse practitioners and nurse executives and will enhance

knowledge and skills for advancement within the nursing profession, healthcare and beyond. As healthcare becomes more complex and the demand for healthcare services increases it is vital that nursing provides individuals educated at the doctoral level in areas such as evidence-based practice, organizational and systems leadership, and health policy.

In December 2012 it will be 20 years since I graduated from USL with my BSN. At that time I know I would have rolled my eyes at the prospect of pursuing a doctorate. However I do remember an educator by the name of Dr. Anne Broussard and remember thinking "I want to teach and be like her!" I could never have imagined that 20 years later I would be in the role she had as semester coordinator, have a DNP and be about to embark on the role as DNP coordinator of UL Lafayette's first nursing doctoral program.

New Faculty Embracing the Educator Role



Five new faculty joined the Department of Nursing this Spring. New clinical lab assistants include Anna Batiste RN, BSN – N308, Alisha Cannon RN, BSN – N418 and Carole Guidry RN, MSN, FNP-BC is a full-time instructor for both N208 and N506. Susan Shelton RN, MSN, CNM, PhD(c) is a part-time clinical instructor in N403.

While we welcome new faculty to our family, we need to extend a warm-hearted goodbye to Brenda Broussard MSN, APRN, CNM, WHNP-BC. Brenda has been part of our faculty for more than 10 years. She will be returning to full scope nurse midwifery clinical practice with the Midwifery Group at Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge. Brenda, you will be missed and we wish you the best.

A Fine Balance: Teaching Scholarship and Service

Deedra Harrington,
MSN, ACNP



Deedra H. Harrington, MSN, ACNP, DNP Candidate, second semester senior coordinator in the UL Lafayette BSN program does an extraordinary job of wearing many hats. Along with her many responsibilities as a semester coordinator, she is also the master teacher for Nursing 418 and Nursing 312. In addition to her teaching duties, she is also working on her doctoral degree. Currently, Deedra is completing her capstone

project, "Implementation of an In-patient Warfarin Protocol" at LGMC and expects to complete her studies in the summer of 2012. She continues to maintain her nurse practitioner certification by practicing part-time as an acute care nurse practitioner with the hospitalist group at LGMC. Deedra is also researching and preparing a manuscript on the student's perspective of the integration of skills modules into the nursing curriculum. She

heroically performed bystander CPR on a cardiac arrest victim (outside of her work duties) and from that incident is participating in an advertising campaign for the annual local Heart Starter Program which aims to train thousands of community members in bystander CPR. Even though life can be hectic for Deedra she is still able to carve out time for her husband and two children as well as an occasional social event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 13th Annual Acadiana Celebrates Nursing, May 12th, 6:30 PM, Petroleum Club
- UL at Lafayette CON Graduation, May 12th, 8 AM, Cajundome Convention Center



Kids on the Geaux

Lifelong Learning

The CONAHP faculty continue to make significant contributions to nursing scholarship through published work, certifications, and professional presentations. In 2012, thus far Dr. Mary Neiheisel made two presentations at the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and chaired the discussion group on the topic: Nurse Practitioner Education. She has edited and completed the FAANP Forum, Vol. 3, Issue 1, and published it online in February. Drs. Jennifer Lemoine and Helen Hurst published "Integration of

SMART Pump Technology to Reduce Medication Errors in the NICU" in Nursing for Women's Health. Kathleen Wilson, Drs. Sheila Haynes, Denise Linton, and June Borazjani have received certification as online instructors through ULearn, with Dr. Borazjani also being an online certified course designer. This summer Kathy Ardoin will present a podium presentation at Drexel University Nursing Education Institute on "The Clinical Teacher's Bag of Tricks: Teaching Students the Significance of Clinical Alarms." Brenda Broussard will present "Hooked on

AROM: Are you Practicing Evidence-Based Care?" at the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses Annual Convention.

NIGHTINGALE REFLECTIONS

Many of life's failures are people who did not really know how close they were to success when they gave up.

- Thomas Edison
1847—1931

Collaborative Efforts

In an attempt to decrease childhood obesity in the Acadiana area, Woman's Foundation, Women's and Children's Hospital, the Picard Center, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Kinesiology, Nursing and

Dietetic departments teamed up to develop "Kids on the Geaux" a weight management program for middle school students. The 12 week program consisted of two sessions per week each lasting 1 ½ hours. Students participated in fun, engaging physical activity as well as lessons related to nutrition

and behavior modification. Twelve students participated in the first "Kids on the Geaux" program, and evaluation data revealed a slight decrease in BMI and overall satisfaction with the program. Future sessions will be provided by Woman's Foundation in collaboration with UL.